

Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

Subject: WHY IS ENDURANCE AN IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL QUALITY? Matthew 10:22

KEY BIBLE VERSE: And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. But those who endure to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)

ENDURE: denotes "to abide under, to bear up courageously" (under suffering), Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; Romans 12:12, translated "patient"; 1 Corinthians 13:7; 2 Timothy 2:10,12 (KJV, "suffer"); Hebrews 10:32; 12:2-3,7; James 1:12; 5:11; 1 Peter 2:20, "ye shall take it patiently." It has its other significance, "to tarry, wait for, await," in Luke 2:43; Acts 17:14

How to See Growth in Christ

Dr. Bonar once said that he could tell when a Christian was growing. In proportion to his growth in grace he would elevate his Maker, talk less of what he himself was doing, and become smaller and smaller in his own esteem, until, like the morning star, he faded away before the rising sun.

Matthew 10:1-15

No matter how difficult our circumstances may be, we can turn opposition into opportunities for witness. We can trust the Spirit of God to help us remember what the Lord has taught us (John 14:26). Instead of fleeing and looking for an easier place, we can "endure to the end," knowing' that God will help us and see us through.

ENDURANCE REQUIRES PREPARATION.

Jesus told the disciples that when arrested for preaching the gospel, they should not worry about what to say in their defense-God's Spirit would speak through them. This promise was fulfilled in Acts 4:8-14 and elsewhere. Some mistakenly think this means we don't have to prepare to present the gospel because God will take care of everything. Scripture teaches, however, that we are to make carefully prepared, thoughtful statements (Colossians 4:6). Jesus is not telling us to stop preparing, but to stop worrying.

ENDURANCE GROWS OUT OF COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST.

Jesus predicted that his followers would be severely persecuted by those who hated what he stood for. In the midst of terrible persecutions, however, they could have hope, knowing that salvation was theirs. Times of trial serve to sift true Christians from false or fair-weather Christians. When you are pressured to give up and turn your back on Christ, don't do it. Remember the benefits of standing firm, and continue to live for Christ.

Standing firm to the end is not a way to be saved but the evidence that a person is really committed to Jesus. Persistence is not a means to earn salvation; it is the by-product of a truly devoted life.

KEY BIBLE VERSE: But Christ, the faithful Son, was in charge of the entire household. And we are God's household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ. (Hebrews 3:6)

ENDURANCE IS THE MEANS TO JOY IN CHRIST.

Because Christ lives in us as believers, we can remain courageous and hopeful to the end. We are not saved by being steadfast and firm in our faith, but our courage and hope reveal that our faith is real. Without this enduring faithfulness, we could easily be blown away by the winds of temptation, false teaching, or persecution. (See also 3:14.)

BIBLE READING: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

KEY BIBLE VERSE: But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at bringing others to Christ. Complete the ministry God has given you. (2 Timothy 4:5)

GOD WILL MAKE OUR ENDURANCE WORTHWHILE.

To keep cool when you are jarred and jolted by people or circumstances, don't react quickly. In any work of ministry that you undertake, keeping your head makes you morally alert to temptation, resistant to pressure, and vigilant when facing heavy responsibility.

As he neared the end of his life, Paul could confidently say he had been faithful to his call. Thus he faced death calmly, knowing that he would be rewarded by Christ. Is your life preparing you for death? Do you share Paul's confident expectation of meeting Christ? The Good News is that the heavenly reward is not just for giants of the faith, like Paul, but for all who are eagerly looking forward to Jesus' second coming. Paul gave these words to encourage Timothy, and us, to keep fighting-no matter how difficult the fight seems. When we are with Jesus Christ, we will discover that it was all worth it.

BIBLE READING: Revelation 14:1-20

KEY BIBLE VERSE: Let this encourage God's holy people to endure persecution patiently and remain firm to the end, obeying his commands and trusting in Jesus. (Revelation 14:12)

OUR ENDURANCE IS RELATED TO THE QUALITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

This news about God's ultimate triumph should encourage God's people to remain firm through every trial and persecution. They can do this, God promises, by trusting in Jesus and obeying the commands in his Word. The secret to enduring, therefore, is trust and obedience. Trust God to give you patience to endure even the small trials you face daily; obey him, even when obedience is unattractive or dangerous. **ENDURANCE, GOD'S WORD ON**

WHAT'S THE POINT OF ENDURANCE? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

1 Timothy 6:11 . . . Run from all these evil things, and follow what is right and good. Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.

2 Timothy 2:3 . . . Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 2:20 . . . Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing right and are patient beneath the blows, God is pleased with you.

Revelation 13:10 . . . The people who are destined for prison will be arrested and taken

away. Those who are destined for death will be killed. But do not be dismayed, for here is your opportunity to have endurance and faith.

Endurance is commanded and commended by God. It is necessary to reaching the goal of a life well-lived and ultimately, of eternal life.

Luke 9:62 . . . Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Mark 13:13 . . . Everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. But those who endure to the end will be saved.

Hebrews 3:6 . . . Christ, the faithful Son, was in charge of the entire household. And we are God’s household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ.

2 Timothy 2:12 . . . If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us.

Endurance is the sign that our faith is for real, because it shows that we have our eternal goals clearly in mind.

IN WHAT AREAS SHOULD WE DEVELOP ENDURANCE?

Deuteronomy 11:1 . . . You must love the Lord your God and obey all his requirements, laws, regulations, and commands.

Joshua 1:7 . . . Be strong and very courageous. Obey all the laws Moses gave you. Do not turn away from them, and you will be successful in everything you do.

Deuteronomy 5:32 . . . Moses told the people, “You must obey all the commands of the Lord your God, following his instructions in every detail.”

Deuteronomy 12:1 . . . These are the laws and regulations you must obey as long as you live in the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

We should develop endurance in obedience. We must consistently obey God, not just obey him once in a while.

Psalms 119:147-148 . . . I rise early, before the sun is up; I cry out for help and put my hope in your words. I stay awake through the night, thinking about your promise.

Psalms 57:7 . . . My heart is confident in you, O God; no wonder I can sing your praises!

Acts 13:43 . . . Many Jews and godly converts to Judaism who worshiped at the synagogue followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them, “By God’s grace, remain faithful.”

Psalms 17:5 . . . My steps have stayed on your path; I have not wavered from following you.

Ezekiel 18:24 . . . However, if righteous people turn to sinful ways and start acting like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their previous goodness will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins.

Joshua 23:8 . . . Be faithful to the Lord your God as you have done until now.

Job 17:9 . . . The righteous will move onward and forward, and those with pure hearts will become stronger and stronger.

We should develop endurance in seeking, believing and faithfully following God.

Endurance shows that your faith and your conversion was real, and not something done with wrong motives.

Psalm 123:3-4 . . . Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy, for we have had our fill of contempt. We have had our fill of the scoffing of the proud and the contempt of the arrogant.

1 Corinthians 4:12 . . . We have worked wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us.

We should develop endurance in dealing with difficult people. We must endure in our kindness and patience as we deal with people who make life tough on us. This is the only way to win them over, by patiently pouring on them the love of Christ.

Revelation 2:3 . . . You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.

2 Thessalonians 1:4 . . . We proudly tell God's other churches about your endurance and faithfulness in all the persecutions and hardships you are suffering.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 . . . You know what I teach, Timothy, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith and how long I have suffered. You know my love and my patient endurance. You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra-but the Lord delivered me from all of it.

1 Peter 1:6-7 . . . Be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while. These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold-and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

Acts 14:22 . . . They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that they must enter into the Kingdom of God through many tribulations.

We should develop endurance in suffering through persecutions, hardships, trials and tribulations. This demonstrates that our faith is strong and real, and can withstand any difficult test.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 . . . As we talk to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and your continual anticipation of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Chronicles 15:7 . . . Now, you men of Judah, be strong and courageous, for your work will be rewarded.

Galatians 6:9 . . . Don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

We should develop endurance in doing good. It is hard to do good over a long period of time when life throws us so many trials and temptations. An enduring faith, however, is up to the challenge.