

Will You Endure Until the End?

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Brethren, we live in a world today that values and demands instant gratification. In generations past, people would save up in order to buy things. After saving up the needed amount, they would then buy the items and own them outright. There was very little “revolving” debt. If you wanted something, then you saved up for it, anticipating how nice it would be when you had it, and then you would buy it. No debt. No lingering payments.

All that changed with the advent of easy credit, easy purchases, and easy debt. Well, the easy part is getting into debt – the hard part is getting out of debt. So now, if the consumer wants something, even on a whim for something he really does not need, he can impulsively purchase the item on credit and instantly have it. Then the reality hits that, after the instant gratification has worn off and after the newness of the item has worn off, the debt for that item still remains.

From CNBC, the average American family carries \$6,194 in credit card debt, debt that never goes away, because as the debt is paid down, new purchases and new debt is added back on. This is debt that never goes away.

Instant gratification is a characteristic of an ungodly society which the Apostle Paul described when he wrote in Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves.* (KJV)

Along with instant gratification that the world treasures and demands comes a corresponding decrease in Godly qualities like patience, love for others, self-control, and endurance.

In Mark 13. Jesus was telling His disciples about the future persecutions of His followers, the saints, the men and women whom God the Father would call throughout the centuries until the time of the end.

Mark 13:13 *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.* (KJV)

So, Jesus proclaimed that His followers would all be hated by everyone, but that those of His followers who endured unto the end would be saved. An important part of this statement is enduring unto the end.

In my sermon this afternoon entitled Will You Endure unto the End?, I would like to explore the subject of *endurance* and give you five points in helping you to endure unto the end.

But first, as always, we must define our terms. So, what is endurance?

The English verb *endure* in Mark 13:13 is the Greek verb “ὑπομένω” (hupomeno) Strong’s #5278 which, according to HELPS Word Studies, means “to remain under” as in remaining under a load or bearing up. Strong’s Concordance states that the verb means “to stay behind, to await, to endure, to persevere.” So, the connotation from the Greek is “to endure while waiting for something”.

The connotation of Mark 13:13 in the Greek is that, those who endure while waiting for something will be saved. And that something which we are all waiting for is the return of Jesus Christ and the First Resurrection.

Please turn with me to 2 Timothy 2. The verb hupomeno, appears 17 times in the New Testament. A few of these verses include:

2 Timothy 2:7 *Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.*

8) *Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:*

9) *Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.*

10) *Therefore, I endure (hupomeno) all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

11) *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:*

12) *If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*
(KJV)

In verse 10, Paul writes that he is patiently enduring all things in his life on account of or because of the elect. Brethren, are we that way? Do we endure all things for our fellow brethren? Do we love the brethren? Or do we continually lose patience with the brethren?

In James 5 James writes about *enduring* (hupomeno) and puts it in the connotation of patience.

James 5:10 *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*

11) *Behold, we count them happy which endure (hupomeno). Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. (KJV)*

In Romans 12, Paul again writes about endurance and perseverance in his epistle to the congregation in Rome.

Romans 12:9 *Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*

10) *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

11) *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

12) *“Rejoicing in hope; patient (hupomeno) in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; (KJV)*

Romans 12:12 *Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer. (NASB)*

The noun form of the Greek verb *hupomeno* is “ὑπομονή” (hupomené) Strong’s #5281, which means “patient endurance”. So, we can gather that endurance (hupomené) is the “patient perseverance” that we show in the midst of hardship while we earnestly wait for something.

Now that we have explored the Biblical definition of *endurance*, let’s begin our exploration concerning ways to help us *endure* unto the end and to have *patient perseverance* in the midst of hardship. This, while we earnestly wait and prepare ourselves for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The first point in helping us to endure unto the end is:

1. Do not be fearful!

From the article The Effects of Chronic Fear on a Person’s Health in the November 11, 2017 edition of the American Journal of Medical Care, we read:

There are several “potential consequences of fear on overall, physical, emotional, environmental, and spiritual health. The potential effects of chronic fear on overall health include: Immune system dysfunction, endocrine system dysfunction, autonomic nervous system alterations, sleep/wake cycle disruption, and eating disorders.

The potential consequences of chronic fear on spiritual health include: bitterness/fear toward God or others, confusion/disgust with God or religion,

loss of trust in God and/or clergy, waiting for God to fix it, and despair related to perceived loss of spirituality.

In short, fear can take control of our lives if we let it. In his first inaugural address of his presidency on March 4, 1932, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt attempted to calm the fear and worries of a nation in the depths of the Great Depression with these following famous words:

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

With God the Father and Jesus Christ helping us and fighting for us, these words should be even more resounding for us today as children of our Heavenly Father.

Again, and again, Yehovah emphasized to the Israelites that they should not fear because He would be with them. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness because of their unbelief and rebellion against Yehovah, the Israelites were back at the same point that they were at 40 years before – ready to enter into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 1:21 *Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. (KJV)*

Just as Yehovah had done 40 years earlier at this point, He told the Israelites not to fear but to trust Him. He continually told the Israelites not to fear whenever the Israelites faced any danger or trouble or problem. In Deuteronomy 31, Moses was giving his final words and instructions to the Israelites before they entered into the Promised Land. Moses would not be going with them, but Joshua would be leading them, and Yehovah would be protecting them.

Deuteronomy 3:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

7) *“And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.*

8) *And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. (KJV)*

In his final instructions to Solomon before Solomon was made king, David encouraged his son not to have fear but to trust in his God (his Elohim – his Mighty One), Yehovah.

1 Chronicles 28:20 *And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God,*

will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD. (KJV)

This encouragement to the people with whom God the Father calls and works continues throughout the Old Testament and into the New Testament. At Jesus' calling of Peter, James and John, the first recorded words of Jesus to them were not to have fear.

Luke 5:10 *And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. (KJV)*

In Luke 12 Jesus again comforts and instructs His disciples that they should not fear.

Luke 12:4 *And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.*

5) *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*

6) *Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?*

7) *But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. (KJV)*

Later in His discourse, Jesus continues

Luke 12:22 *And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.*

23) *The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.*

24) *Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?*

25) *And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?*

26) *If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?*

27) *Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

28) *If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

29) *And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*

30) *For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

31) *But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

32) *Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* (KJV)

The command "Fear not" appears 61 times in the Bible, always in relation to trusting in our Heavenly Father that He will always be with us and that He always cares for us.

It is so important that we do not have fear of the future, that we do not have fear of the unknown, that we do not have fear of what *might* happen. Fear of what might happen is the opposite of trusting our Heavenly Father. So, not having fear but instead trusting God the Father and Jesus Christ will help us endure unto the end.

The second point in helping to endure unto the end is:

2. Be confident!

Brethren, as called-out saints of our Heavenly Father, do we exude confidence in our lives? Confidence interwoven with genuine humility is very powerful. It is a characteristic that is immediately recognized in business affairs and in personal relationships. Someone who knows, and knows that he knows is a confident person.

Please turn with me to Philippians 4. The Apostle Paul wrote about this confidence based on humility to the greatness and power of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:10 *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.*

11) *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*

12) *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

13) *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* (KJV)

Some Greek texts have the word *Christ* at the end of the verse, and some Greek texts don't. Many English translations such as

The New International Version,

The English Standard Version,

The New American Standard Version,

The International Standard Version,

The New English Translation Bible,

The Douay-Rheims Bible,

The Darby Bible Translation, and

The English Revised Version

All of these versions do not include this apparently added word. These Bible versions read:

I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.

Who is the “Him” in verse 13?

In verse 10, Paul is referring to “the Lord” which in the Greek text is Κύριος (Kurios) without the word “the”, which we have previously explored in other sermons is the title given to Yehovah in the Greek Septuagint. We have previously explored in other sermons that Yehovah is God the Father. Therefore, the reference here in Philippians 4 is to God the Father.

Basically, Paul is saying that we can do all things through the power given unto us by our Heavenly Father. Knowing that this is true, that we can do all things with the power from our Heavenly Father, gives us great confidence to fight our battles, to conquer our fears, and to win our victories.

In Philippians, the Apostle Paul was mirroring the words of Jesus in Matthew 19. Jesus had just ended the conversation with the young rich man who decided not to follow Christ because of his riches.

Matthew 19:23 *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

24) And again, I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

25) When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who, then can be saved?

26) But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (KJV)

In verse 26, Jesus is referring to God the Father. So, Jesus was saying that with God the Father, all things are possible. Knowing that should give all of us confidence and strength and assurance in fighting our daily battles and struggles.

In Colossians 1. The Apostle Paul gave encouragement to the Colossian congregation for them to be strengthened and confident and to have great endurance.

Colossians 1:9 *We continually ask God [God the Father] to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,*

10) so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord [Jesus Christ] and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God [God the Father],

11) being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience. (NIV)

Do we realize that by growing in the knowledge of our Heavenly Father and growing in our relationship with Him, we are following the example of Jesus Christ that He left for us? Then in turn, being strengthened by the might of God the Father will give us the endurance that we will need to defeat any enemy, to win any battle, and to claim the crown that our Heavenly Father is offering to us? Brethren, is that a living truth in our lives?

Paul sums it all up in one verse in Philippians 1. Paul is exhorting the Philippian congregation to have confidence that they will make it into the Kingdom.

Philippians 1:3 *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,*

4) Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy

5) For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (KJV)

As we have explored in previous sermons from Romans 1:8 and Acts 24:14, Paul's God was God the Father who is also Yehovah, the God of his fathers.

So, Paul is writing that we should be confident that God the Father, has called us and chosen us out of the billions of people on this earth, and has begun His work in us. Our Heavenly Father will perform that work in us until our physical deaths or until the First Resurrection when God the Father through Jesus Christ will resurrect us. Brethren, do we believe that or do we doubt that God the Father can and will finish His work that He started in us when He called us out of this world?

In Psalm 37. David wrote about having confidence in our Heavenly Father in that Yehovah would not let us be utterly cast down even though we may fall.

Psalm 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD [God the Father]: and he delighteth in his way.*

24) Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD [God the Father] upholdeth him with his hand. (KJV)

In verse 24, *utterly cast down* is a translation of the Hebrew verb “**תל**” (tul) Strong's #2904. This verb is in the Hophal form in Hebrew which means “to be hurled headlong or to be totally overwhelmed.”

David wrote that our Heavenly Father will uphold us with His hand and that we will never be totally overwhelmed in our problems and circumstances. Do we ever feel that we are just overwhelmed by our trials, by our problems, and by our circumstances? Paul addresses this issue in his first epistle to the Corinthian church.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God [ὁ Θεός – the God – God the Father] is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. (NET Bible)*

Brethren, does knowing that our Heavenly Father will not test us beyond our abilities to win the battle, to be victorious over that test, to achieve what He wants us to achieve, give us the confidence that we need to always trust Him and never doubt Him? Verse 13 states that we are not having to face any trial or test that others have not had to endure. They endured, and we will endure! God the Father does not want us to fail. He will never sabotage us. He will not sabotage us, because He will not sabotage His plan of salvation, which includes each of us.

Do we exude confidence in our lives? Do we confidently attack our problems each day with the confidence and assurance that, no matter what may be happening, no matter what the seemingly overwhelming problem may be, no matter how bleak and hopeless the situation may seem to be, we know that God the Father and Jesus Christ have our back. They will not let us fall and not get back up, and that our Heavenly Father will never give us a test that we cannot overcome. He is on our side. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:31 – *If [the] God [God the Father] be for us, who can be against us?* This confidence will help us to endure unto the end.

The third point in helping to endure unto the end is:

3. Be steadfast!

As we have heard in sermons for decades, the spiritual race we run is not a sprint. The race we run is a marathon. Running marathons takes a steadfast approach. Runners of long distances have to be steadfast in their training, in their preparations, and in their strategies for running the race. Unlike sprinters of the 100-meter dash, where the runners run full bore for just a few seconds, and then the race is finished, marathon runners have to build muscle endurance which will permit them to last the entire long race. Just like these runners, we must take the same approach in our spiritual lives in the spiritual race that we are running. Hebrews 12:1 is a very well-known verse.

Hebrews 12:1 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (KJV)*

The Greek word for *patience* in verse 1 is again our friend *hupomené* or *patient endurance*. The last part in verse 1 is translated in the New Living Translation as

“And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.” (NLT)

In 1 Corinthians 16 we read a very important verse that has a very weird phrase from Old English in the King James Version. The Apostle Paul is exhorting the Corinthian brethren to be steadfast in the faith.

1 Corinthians 16:13 *Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.* (KJV)

The Greek verb for *stand firm* in verse 13 is “στήκω” (steko) Strong’s 4739 which means “to stand fast, to stand firm, to persevere”.

1 Corinthians 16:13 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.* (NIV)

Then in Philippians 1 is where we will read another occurrence of the verb steko. Paul is exhorting the Philippian brethren to be steadfast in one spirit and not to be terrified by their trials and enemies.

Philippians 1:27 *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast [steko] in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
28) And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. (KJV)

Brethren, Paul is also speaking to us. We should stand fast in one spirit and one mind, and we should not be fearful of our adversaries and the troubles we face.

James 1:2. is a very hard scripture to apply because no one enjoys trials, but we must experience them in order for us to grow spiritually.

James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations [trials];*
3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience [hupomené – patient endurance]
4) But let patience [hupomené - patient endurance] have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (KJV)

James 1:2 *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,*

- 3) *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*
4) *And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (ESV)*

Paul also writes concerning this spiritual maturing process in Romans 5 further explaining this step-by-step process.

Romans 5:3 *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience [hupomené – patient endurance];*

4) *And patience [hupomené – patient endurance], experience; and experience, hope: (KJV)*

Romans 5:3 *We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.*

4) *And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. (NLT)*

In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul discusses the First Resurrection which we all are striving to be part of. The First Resurrection is our entry into our Heavenly Father's Kingdom and into eternal life. Paul writes that because of this hope we have, we are to remain steadfast and unmovable.

1 Corinthians 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

51) *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

52) *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54) *So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

55) *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

56) *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

57) *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

58) *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. (KJV)*

The Greek adjective for *steadfast* in verse 58 is “ἑδραῖος” (edraios) Strong's #1476 which means “solidly based, morally fixed, firm in purpose, steadfast, firm, not given to fluctuation or moving off course.” Do we live our lives in our spiritual race with “edraios”,

with firmness and steadfastness of mind and heart, not given to fluctuating or moving off course? This type of steadfastness will help us endure unto the end.

The fourth point in helping to endure unto the end is:

4. Do not become weary and give up!

We live in a society that values instant gratification. And if the results are not almost instantaneous, we tend to lose interest and give up. We tend to make excuses for why things didn't work out and that we really didn't want the result or achievement or prize after all. Our society gives up when the going gets tough. Our worldly society tends to give up on marriages, on career paths, on long-term goals, on hard roads and paths in life. Our society prefers only the pleasant, the easy, the free, and the immediate things in life. Our society does not have the stomach for the long-term and difficult path. When those difficulties arise, man tends to give up.

In 2 Corinthians 4 the Apostle Paul exhorts the brethren in the Corinthian congregation not to give up.

2 Corinthians 4:16 *We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.*

15) All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

16) That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.

17) For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

18) So, we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever. (NLT)

Verse 16 in the King James Version states: *For which cause we faint not.*

The Greek verb in verse 16 translated as "to faint" or "to give up" is "ἐκκακέω" (ekkakeo) Strong's #1573 which means "to faint, to be weary, to be negatively influenced with the outcome of experiencing inner weariness."

I think all of us can personally relate to being negatively influenced with the outcome of experiencing inner weariness. Do we feel at times that we are just at our wit's end, that we are just tired and weary of pressing forward, that we are bewildered at all the negative circumstances and events happening all around us? Do we ever feel like just giving up, that the way is just too hard, that what we facing is not what "we signed up for"?

Asa was a good king of Judah who obeyed Yehovah and did not serve the other pagan gods and their rituals. Yehovah, through the prophet Azariah, encouraged Asa not to give up, not to be weary, and not to lose heart.

2 Chronicles 15:7 *But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded. (NIV)*

Brethren, looking back in our lives, do we see the many times that our Heavenly Father encouraged us not to give up, not be weary, and not to lose heart? Maybe it was a strange occurrence, a comment from a friend, something that seemingly came out of nowhere which heartened and strengthened us.

In Galatians 6 Paul exhorted the Galatian brethren to bear one another's burdens and to persevere in the face of adversity.

Galatians 6:9 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (NIV)*

The Greek verb in verse 9 is again *ekkakeo*, the same verb as in 2 Corinthians 4:16, meaning "to faint, to be weary, to be negatively influenced with the outcome of experiencing inner weariness."

Paul included in his second epistle to the Corinthian brethren all the trials, tribulations and sufferings that he had endured during his ministry.

2 Corinthians 11:23 *Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.*

24) Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25) Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26) In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27) In weariness and painfulness, in watchings [sleeplessness] often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

28) Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. (KJV)

Brethren, most of us have never and hopefully will never have to endure what the Apostle Paul endured. I don't think any of us have been stoned or whipped or beaten, or shipwrecked or hunted down. Yet Paul never lost faith. He never lost hope. He never lost his zeal for God the Father and for Jesus Christ. And, he never gave up!!!

At the end of his life in Rome, Paul knew that he would be executed in the coming days or weeks. His last message that he sent was to his fellow minister, Timothy, in which he confidently looked back on his life-long battle and claimed victory. He never gave up!

2 Timothy 4:6 *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (KJV)

Just like Paul did in his life, we must commit ourselves to finishing the race, no matter the trials, or obstacles, or problems we face.

Brethren, never giving up will help us endure unto the end.

The fifth point in helping to endure unto the end is:

5. Don't look back – Move forward!

Do we find ourselves looking back on what might have been, on all that we have lost, on all that we have forfeited in our obedience and in our loyalty to our Heavenly Father and to Jesus Christ? In responding to some disciples who were giving excuses for not following Him, Jesus made a simple but profoundly significant statement.

Luke 9:62 *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (KJV)*

The entire history of the wanderings of the Israelites for 40 years was that the entire generation which left Egypt always looked back toward Egypt with longing eyes for an Egypt that they had begun to romanticize and which only existed in their minds and imaginations. That generation of Israelites never did look ahead to the Promised Land, which was never real to them and which they never truly valued.

Are we looking back or are we moving ahead? In Philippians 3. Paul exhorted the Philippians to reach forward to the goals that lay before them.

Philippians 3:13 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, (KJV)*

There is a famous quote made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in April 1960 at his address to the students at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia in which he stated:

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

So, brethren, we cannot look back. We cannot focus on what we have given up to live this way of life in order to be obedient to our Heavenly Father. We cannot devote our energies to romanticizing the life we had in the past or could have had now without the Father’s calling. We cannot allow ourselves to feel defeated. Satan wants that. He desires that for us. He wants us to completely and utterly fail. Satan wants us to fall short to where we do not enter our Heavenly Father’s Kingdom that God the Father and Jesus Christ want so much to give to us so. We must keep moving forward toward the Kingdom! Not looking back but always moving forward will help us endure unto the end.

Brethren, we have discussed five ways to help us endure unto the end. They are:

1. Do not be fearful!
2. Be confident!
3. Be steadfast!
4. Do not become weary and give up!
5. Don’t look back – Move forward!

For a final scripture, look again at Mark 13, where we started in the sermon.

Again, Jesus was warning His disciples that they would all be hated because of His name and that they would all have to endure. The parallel account is also given in Matthew 24:13 which uses the exact same words.

Mark 13:13 *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (KJV)*

The verb *hupomeno* in this verse in Greek is actually in the aorist participle form, which in English should be translated as “having endured” which is perfective form of the verb in English just like it is in Greek. This form represents a point in time referring back to a completed action in the past.

The [Biblos Interlinear Bible](#) translates this verse as:

“And you will be hated by all on account of My name; however, the one having endured to the end, he will be saved.

Matthew uses the exact same verb in the exact same verb form (the aorist participle form) as Mark used in his account. Again, this form puts the time frame of the verse in the future with the endurance as being a completed action.

We use this verb form often in English as the perfect participle. The perfect participle indicates that you have completed the past action and can carry out the second action. In the sentence, "Having performed his required work, he left the office.", what is automatically implied in this sentence is that the man completed his required work and then was able to leave the office. From the time frame of the sentence, we are looking back on a completed action. The same is true for Mark 13:13 and Matthew 24:13.

There is a slightly different connotation in the Greek text than in the King James text because the Greek text shows the endurance as a completed action. The verse implies victory and that we did indeed endure unto the end.

So, Mark 13:13 in the Greek text is a confident, victorious, inspiring, and motivating statement by Jesus for His disciples, and those disciples include us today.

Brethren, we have so much to be thankful for. Our Heavenly Father has opened our eyes to understand more and more about Him. We have a special insight to the Bible that we did not have before. The Bible has truly come alive to us like it never had before.

Still, we are faced with adversities. Many of us are facing severe trials. Many of us are alone. Many of us have been abandoned by friends or by families. Some of us are facing life-threatening trials. Brethren, no matter what the trial, obstacle, problem, debacle, weakness, sin, or shortcoming that we are facing, with the love and the help and the power of our Heavenly Father, we can endure unto the end.

Tomorrow, we will assemble together again to celebrate and observe the Feast of Pentecost. This a day which pictures the end of our journey, the First Resurrection and our entry into God the Father's Kingdom as His spiritual children with spiritual and eternal bodies.

Brethren, let's renew our commitment to our Heavenly Father that we are in this for the long haul, that we will honor His calling of us by not being fearful, but by being confident, by being steadfast, by never giving up, by always moving toward Him and His Kingdom, and by enduring unto the end.

And brethren, we will endure unto the end!!!

Brethren, happy Feast of Pentecost to you all! May our actions, thoughts, and speech always give glory and honor to our Heavenly Father! May His Kingdom come soon!