

The Man That Endureth

By Everett Hardin

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried he shall receive a crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him,” Jas. 1:12.

Enduring Temptation

The word “*endureth*” in this passage is the Greek word, *hupomeno*, which means literally, “to abide under, to bear up courageously.” The Lord has promised a blessing to all who bear up under temptations which come our way.

Righteousness would not be admirable at all were it not for the fact of temptations to unrighteousness. Man’s nature tends toward evil, and the world in which he lives is an evil world. Jesus was “*tempted in all points like as we are,*” Heb. 4:15. He wrestled in the wilderness with Satan, Matthew 4 and underwent severe agonies in the Garden of Gethsemane, Matt. 26:36-46. But never did He succumb to temptation; He endured it. His victory is the pledge of our own conquest over temptation and the world. “*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,*” John 16:33.

We must understand that there is no virtue in simply being tempted. It is not “blessed is the man that is tossed and troubled” — but “*blessed is the man that endureth temptation.*” It is only the result of victory that will be blessed. We have to live with the problems which grow out of trials and temptations, but we can overcome them by the grace of God. Temptations must be conquered with faith and obedience.

Enduring Chastening

“My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: for whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth,” Heb. 12:5-6.

We must recognize that in the activities of life it may be necessary for God to chasten us — though it is always difficult to know, since it has not been expressly revealed, exactly when and how God chastens us. But we recognize that He does and will in some way. Let us not despise or treat chastening as a light matter, but neither let us be too much discouraged or dejected by it. What should be our attitude toward such?

Negatively, it is not to *despise* and not to *faint*, Heb. 12:5. God has a tender regard for us as His children. Positively, it is to be in subjection, v. 9. We should bear with grateful resignation the wise and gracious chastisements of Him who never errs. He corrects us for our own good. The benefit that we derive from the chastening of God is that we share in the holiness of God, v. 10. Chastening is intended for our highest good and serves to make us partakers of the divine nature. Chastening “*yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness,*” v. 11. That is, it produces righteousness as its fruit; and this fruit gives peace and consolation to the once grieved and troubled soul.

Enduring Afflictions

“Take, my brethren the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction and of patience. Behold we count them happy which endure,” Jas. 5:10-11. The prophets did not escape persecutions; we may therefore, expect it; these men endured faithfully the trials of life; so should we. The prophets were seldom far removed from persecution and trial. They suffered with patience; they thus serve as examples for all succeeding generations who would in such fashion please God.

We read of the great men of Hebrews 11:36-39. The faithful have, through the ages, often suffered much hardship and agonizing pain. This list of the faithful was not simply to recount history. They serve as a testimony to encourage us that serving God at all cost is worth the effort. Those who “*endured*” were those who bore up uncompromising under the burdens which were theirs, and whose faith did not fail in the hour of trial.

Enduring Persecution

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven,” Matt. 5:11-12. *“Yea, and all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution,”* 2 Tim. 3:12.

Though we may not suffer today the physical persecutions endured by early Christians, other forms of persecution prevail: Peer pressure, invitations and promotions denied, ridicule, false accusations, etc. We must endure all forms of persecution. Persecution is followed by a great reward in heaven, a reward in proportion to, yet much greater than, the sacrifice.

Enduring Hardness

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ,” 2 Tim. 2:3. A soldier in the army must suffer separation from loved ones and friends, inclement weather conditions, exhausting marches, sometimes hunger and thirst, life threatening dangers, etc. A good soldier in the Lord’s army must be prepared to suffer hardships in battle; and anyone who is not willing to do so will not make a good soldier.

A soldier is not worth much to the Lord if he gives up in the heat of battle. The fearful and retreating soldier gives the enemy comfort and encouragement. He also demoralizes other soldiers and his example takes away their courage and influences them to give up the battle. We must stay on the job continuing to do right, in spite of hindering influences, in spite of persecution. We must *“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,”* Heb. 12:1. No doubt there will be mistakes, failures and disappointments along the way. We must do our best to correct and overcome them.

Enduring Sound Doctrine

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears,” 2 Tim. 4:2-3.

In every period of history there will be men who will refuse to endure sound doctrine.

Their craving is for teachers to suit their fancies and perverted tastes. This reminds one of Jer. 5:31, *“The prophets prophesy falsely...and my people love to have it so.”* Those who would be blessed must be willing and able to endure sound doctrine—to walk in the narrow way of truth. Only by so doing can one prevent being condemned with the men who turn away from the truth, not willing to abide in sound doctrine.

How To Do It

How does one endure these things as a Christian? The word of God has not left us without an answer. We must imitate the faithful Moses: *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to endure the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproaches of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible,”* Heb. 11:24-27.

The key to endurance is seeing Him Who is invisible, the Lord. Only by keeping our eyes upon Him can we hope to endure the trials of this life.

So True: “You can stay popular and be against sin, but you make enemies by being against a specific sin.”