

***Bringing You
Closer to God
His Love and Peace
And Eternal Life***

***Everyone Who Wants to Live a Godly Life in Christ Jesus
Will Be Persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12)
If the World Hates You, Keep in Mind
That It Hated Me First. (John. 15:18)***

**Receive Endurance Only According to God's Plan
Then You Also Receive God's Love and Blessings**

**How To
Endure What is
Coming Your Way**

ENDURANCE

If you are going to be used by God, He will take you through a number of experiences that are not meant for you personally at all. They are designed to make you useful in His hands, and to enable you to understand what takes place in the lives of others. Because of this process, you will never be surprised by what comes your way. You say, "Oh, I can't deal with that person." Why can't you? God gave you sufficient opportunities to learn from Him about that problem; but you turned away, not heeding the lesson, because it seemed foolish to spend your time that way.

The sufferings of Christ were not those of ordinary people. He suffered "according to the will of God" ([1 Peter 4:19](#)), having a different point of view of suffering from ours. It is only through our relationship with Jesus Christ that we can understand what God is after in His dealings with us. When it comes to suffering, it is part of our Christian culture to want to know God's purpose beforehand. In the history of the Christian church, the tendency has been to avoid being identified with the sufferings of Jesus Christ. People have sought to carry out God's orders through a shortcut of their own. God's way is always the way of suffering—the way of the "long road home."

Are we partakers of Christ's sufferings? Are we prepared for God to stamp out our personal ambitions? Are we prepared for God to destroy our individual decisions by supernaturally transforming them? It will mean not knowing why God is taking us that way, because knowing would make us spiritually proud. We never realize at the time what God is putting us through—we go through it more or less without understanding. Then suddenly we come to a place of enlightenment, and realize—"God has strengthened me and I didn't even know it!"

Wisdom From Oswald Chambers

We are not fundamentally free; external circumstances are not in our hands, they are in God's hands, the one thing in which we are free is in our personal relationship to God. We are not responsible for the circumstances we are in, but we are responsible for the way we allow those circumstances to affect us; we can either allow them to get on top of us, or we can allow them to transform us into what God wants us to be.

Bible Versus About Endurance

Romans 5:3-4 - *More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,*

Romans 5:1-21 - *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ...*

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

1 Corinthians 13:7 - *Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 - *Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the*

throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Hebrews 10:36 - For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

James 5:10-11 - As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 1:25 - But the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Hebrews 12:2 - Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Acts 14:22 - Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Mark 13:9-13 - But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Romans 11:19-22 - Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

Matthew 10:22-23 - And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Hebrews 3:12-14 - Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

2 Timothy 2:3 - Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

Matthew 24:10-13 - And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Hebrews 6:4-6 - *For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.*

Colossians 1:24 - *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church,*

1 Corinthians 9:24-25 - *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*

1 John 4:10-16 - *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ...*

Luke 8:15 - *As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.*

2 Peter 2:20-22 - *For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."*

1 Timothy 4:16 - *Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

James 1:12 - *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

James 1:2-4 - *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 - *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

Matthew 24:13 - *But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*

Ephesians 6:10-18 - *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ...*

James 5:11 - *Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.*

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

John 14:27 - *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

Hebrews 4:15 - *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

Hebrews 11:27 - *By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.*

Psalms 34:19 - *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*

1 John 4:1 - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

1 Peter 3:15 - *In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.*

James 4:7 - *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

2 Timothy 4:3-4 - *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

Jeremiah 10:10 - *But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.*

2 Corinthians 12:9 - *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Philippians 4:13 - *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

James 5:13 - *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise.*

Titus 1:9 - *He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*

1 Corinthians 3:16 – *Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

2 Timothy 3:16 - *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

2 Timothy 3:10 - *You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,*

John 16:33 - *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

Matthew 10:28 - *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Psalm 22:26 - *The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!*

2 Timothy 3:11-12 - *Persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

Exodus 18:23 - *If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.*

2 Timothy 4:3 - *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,*

1 Corinthians 15:22 - *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

1 Corinthians 1:10 - *By the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

Romans 16:17 - *...W watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.*

Acts 4:12 - *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

RUNNING THE RACE

Enduring to the End

by DIANE DEW

In the world of competitive sports, many very good and promising athletes will compete for a title and even dream of obtaining the prize. However, relatively few will pay the price of the intense physical training and years of preparation that must take place prior to the competition. Even of those who try, many fall out of the race somewhere along the way.

The New Testament draws a parallel from this, as to the endurance required of believers. (Mat 13:18-23) If we would partake of the Prize set before us, we must remember the words of Jesus: "He that shall *endure unto the end*, the same shall be saved." (Mat 24:13; 10:22; Mark 13:13)

Endurance

In any contest, the important factor is not how many begin the competition but who finishes the race and completes the course, who wins the prize. Late in life, Paul declared, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness ..." (2 Thes 4:7, 8)

Scripture says we are to "*run with patience (endurance, persistence) the race* set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and *Finisher* of our faith ... For consider Him that *endured* ... lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Heb 12:1-3)

*"Know ye not that they which run in a race run all,
but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.*

*Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
I therefore run, not as one that beateth the air:
But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:
lest that by any means when I have preached to others,
I myself should be a castaway." (1 Corin 9:24-27)*

From these scriptures we see various aspects must be considered regarding the race "set before us" -- the need for endurance; the focus of our vision; keeping the rules; self-discipline; and the desire and determination to win. If we lack in any of these areas, we will become vulnerable to defeat and failure.

Endurance, by the very sense of the term, implies the necessity of opposition. Jesus gave several promises "to him that overcometh" [1], but there must be obstacles, things to overcome, if we are to lay hold of the prize. Paul repeatedly exhorted believers to "*continue* in the faith ... (for) we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:21, 22) "*If* we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end," then we shall obtain the reward. (Heb3:5, 6, 14) Again, the choice is ours, and it is conditional: "*If* we ..."

The need for endurance in the Christian life is crucial. Whether we are aware or not, a continual warfare is taking place in the heavenlies. (2 Corin 10:3-5; Eph 6:12) *Being* a soldier is not enough to win the war. We must actively "*fight* a good fight!" (1 Tim 6:12) All the weaponry in the world will do us no good unless we actively *resist* the onslaughts and attacks of the enemy. (Eph 6:12)

When Jesus encouraged the church in Philadelphia to "*hold fast* what thou hast" (cp. Rev3:11, "*hold fast ... firm unto the end*" [2]), he did not mean to simply remain at the same level of commitment and experience. We must not only maintain our present position but "go on" from there: *continue*.

Walking with God is an uphill climb. What Jesus Christ accomplished at Calvary must be worked in to our lives today. We "*grow* in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior." (2 Pet 3:18) We are to ever be "*increasing in the knowledge of God ...*" (Colossians 1:10) Those "things that *accompany* salvation" are conditional, dependent upon our response: "*if ye continue* in the faith ..." (Col 1:23; cp. Acts 13:43; 14:22; Jn 8:31)

At times, all we feel we can do, in the words of Paul, is "hold on." When it would be easier to "take a break," we must "press on toward the mark." (Phil 3:14) When no strength lies within us to complete the course, we must draw upon an inner Strength to sustain us. When we would have the tendency to look behind, and be content with how far we have come (or discouraged with the length of the way), let us look to Jesus. He is able to keep us from falling. And when we do fall, we must learn to get up again, and begin anew: "A righteous man falls seven times *and rises again*." (Prov24:16)

Jesus did not quit when the going got tough. In his place of greatest need, stretched out on that cruel cross, his confession was not "I am finished" but "It (his task here on earth) is finished!" Here was a declaration of victory, not a confession of defeat.

Desire

Even with all the preparation and accuracy of "perfection" in any sport, unless one has the desire to compete and win, his training is useless. We can have all the know-how and go through the religious gymnastics of Christianity; but unless there is within us an unquenchable desire to "follow hard" after the Lord, to know him in his fullness, the final record will reveal our place as falling far short. Isaiah said, "the *willing* and the obedient shall eat the good of the land." (Isa 1:19)

How far we will go in God is determined by the desire of our heart (Psalms 37:4) According to the words of Paul, God is at work in us "both *to will* and to do of his good pleasure." (Phil 2:13)

Preparation

Many weeks, even years go into the training of a successful athlete. The actual competition or test of endurance, however, is often a matter of only a few minutes, even seconds. Jesus Christ was hidden away in the carpenter's shop till the age of 30, and even when he began his public ministry it only lasted for three years. Joseph served 14 years in a place he later was made to rule over. But those years were not wasted time. God was making him into the man he knew would be needed to fit the task. he could not enter into it unprepared.

Noah invested a great length of time building an ark that was to keep him and his family alive for several months. Moses didn't receive his call till 40 years of age.

God is at work in us now to prepare us for the days that lie ahead. We must not take lightly this time of preparation. God is patient, working for eternity, and his timetable is not like that of man. With him, "a thousand years are as one day." Centuries he waited before sending the promised Messiah, arranging events and preparing the hearts of this earth to receive that precious Seed.

Discipline

An important part of God's training program is becoming sure-footed Before we can compete we must become "established," firmly rooted, "grounded and settled in the faith." (1 Thes 3:13; 2 Thes 2:17; Col 1:22, 23; 2:7) This period of preparation is necessary to strengthen our spiritual muscles, "by reason of use," through practice (or, exercise -- Heb 5:14).

In order to enter the race, or even qualify as a contestant, one must learn to cast aside anything detrimental to his program of training. Following Paul's exhortation of 1 Corin 9:24-27 is a chapter containing examples of certain pitfalls, things we must learn to "flee!" Some are blatant sin, others are simply "weights" -- but both, if allowed to continue, will deter our progress and eventually prevent us from coming through the line victoriously.

As Hebrews 12:1 says, we must "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run ... the race." Paul said not everything "lawful" (or, permissible) is "expedient" - - upbuilding or constructive to a life of faith and holiness in God. (1 Corin 6:12; 10:23) These things we must learn to leave aside and go on. The Lord wants to be able to present us to the Father "holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: if ye continue ..." (2 Corin 11:2; Eph 5:25-27; Col 1:22, 28; Jude 24)

*"Thou therefore endure hardness
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life...
and if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned,
except he strive lawfully." (2 Tim 2:3-5)*

Obedience

To qualify for the finals, one must abide by the rules of the competition. In God's kingdom, as well, certain laws and guidelines must not be violated. Jesus spoke of those who offered to work for him but did not complete the instructions. Afterwards, they "went their own ways."

"Ye did run well," Paul said "who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Gal 5:7) "I marvel that ye are so soon removed ..." (1:6) "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?" (5:7)

Enduring to the End

Many focus on the initial speed of their progress, but overlook one far greater factor of successful athletic competition: *consistency*. We may start out in the front lines, leading, but if our progress is not consistent -- if we become entangled with the affairs of this life (2 Tim 2:4; Gal 5:1) -- we will fall back as we weary with the stress of the race.

Life in eternity is being affected by the many choices we make daily. "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience (endurance), that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." (Heb 10:35-36)

How to Endure Suffering

By Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

No one *enjoys* suffering, but suffering is a necessary, normal part of the Christian life. In fact, the Scripture says we can *expect* hardships and suffering to increase (2 Tim. 2:3; 3:1-4, 13), so we must be prepared.

We learn from the book of 2 Timothy that we may experience suffering as a result of our testimony, our godly living, or our stand for truth (2 Tim. 1:8; 2:8-9, 17-18; 3:6-8, 12). We may also experience suffering when we are rejected or left alone (2 Tim. 1:15; 4:9-11; 4:16), or as a natural consequence to our fleshly, worldly desires (2 Tim. 2:22).

Suffering will indeed come, but God can give us grace and power to overcome every trial and to fulfill our purpose and mission in His kingdom. In his second epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul shares some important truths about *how* we can endure suffering.

Ten Principles for Enduring Suffering

1. Don't forget *why* you are suffering.

Remember your purpose and Whom you serve! The Apostle Paul said he was willing to suffer for the proclamation of the Gospel, for the sake of the elect, and for the glory of God. Our suffering, big or little, can be used to bring about the same purposes.

"Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead . . . as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal." (2 Tim. 2:8-9)

"I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Tim. 2:10)

"To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Tim. 4:18b)

2. Remember that you are a prisoner of *Christ*, not of circumstances.

"Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner" (2 Tim. 1:8).

3. Keep going back to the things you know to be true from God's Word.

Don't doubt in the dark what you have seen in the light. Remember what you received as a result of your salvation in Christ (2 Tim. 1:5). And your calling and the grace of God (2 Tim. 1:1, 9-12).

"Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 1:13)

4. Keep doing whatever God has called you to do.

Persevere, stay the course, & be faithful, regardless of any opposition or hardship. (2 Tim. 4:1–5)

“The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching . . . As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Tim. 4:3a, 5)

5. Trust God to deal with those who oppose the truth.

Don’t take matters into your own hands or become bitter and argumentative.

“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.” (2 Tim. 2:23–26)

6. Remember times in the past when the Lord delivered or rescued you.

Be quick to praise Him and testify to others (2 Tim. 3:11; 4:16–17).

“The Lord stood by me and strengthened me . . . I was rescued from the lion’s mouth.” (2 Tim. 4:17)

7. Rely on the resources God has given you:

- The grace of God (2 Tim. 1:2, 9; 2:1; 4:22).
- The gift of God—your God-given ability to serve Him (2 Tim. 1:6–7).
- The power of God (rather than your own strength) (2 Tim. 1:8; Phil. 2:13; Eph. 6:10).
- The indwelling Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 1:14).
- God’s word will keep you grounded and give you perspective (2 Tim. 2:7, 9; 3:12–17; 4:1–2).

8. Remember that you are not alone in your suffering.

You already have:

- The presence of Christ (Matt. 28:20)
- The prayers of other believers (2 Tim. 1:3)
- The “fellowship of suffering”—other believers who are facing hardships for the sake of Christ (2 Tim. 1:8; Heb. 13:3; Col. 1:24).

Cultivate these to help you endure:

- Godly helpers – Find and cultivate a group of like-minded believers whose faithfulness and prayers can inspire and strengthen you (2 Tim. 1:2, 4–5; 4:9–13, 19–21).
- Godly heroes – Read the biographies of missionaries and other faithful believers so God can cultivate faith and wisdom in your heart (Heb. 13:7).
- *“You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness . . . continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it.”* (2 Tim. 3:10, 14)
- Godly heritage – As you learn about those who’ve gone before, you will be able to instill faith and courage in the next generation. Pass the baton to others.
- *“And what you have heard from me . . . entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”* (2 Tim. 2:2)

9. No matter how difficult things are today, you can face the future with hope. Trust the truth of Scripture.

The Truth is:

- All wrongs will one day be righted (2 Tim. 3:8-9; 4:14).
- The Lord will deliver you from all evil—in His time and way (2 Tim. 4:17-18). In the meantime, counsel your heart according to the truth and promises of God (Psalm 27).
- *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.”* (2 Tim. 4:18a)
- All your suffering, efforts, labors, and faithfulness will be rewarded in “that Day” when believers stand before the Lord (2 Tim. 1:12, 18; 2:12; 4:8; Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16; James 1:12).
- *“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”* (2 Tim. 4:8)
- You will give an account, so guard the “deposit” entrusted to you (2 Tim. 1:12, 14; 1 Tim. 6:20).

10. In all your suffering, remember Jesus Christ.

Remember:

- His life and His suffering and sacrifice for you (2 Tim. 2:3)
- His triumph over Satan, sin, and death (2 Tim. 2:8)
- His power, promises, and presence (Matt. 28:18-20)
- What He is doing for you in heaven (John 14:2-3; Rom. 8:34)

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.” Heb. 12:3-4

Expect suffering—it is inevitable—but don’t forget the powerful resource that you have in Christ. Entrust your life to His ever-present care and control. He loves you, and He will help you endure.

THIS MATERIAL COMPOSED & EDITED BY GORDON M. WOOD

Website: www.ReturnMinistries.org

Email: gordon.wood369@gmail.com

Phone: 978-692-0262

On internet search: Rev. Dr. Gordon Wood on LinkedIn

