



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 67

Endurance

Hebrews 10:36 (ESV),

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

We talk a lot about the saving power of Jesus Christ and rightly so. If it were not for the power of God through Jesus Christ none of us could be saved. However, we have need of endurance. The writer of Hebrews states that these believers being written to had lived in times past where after they became believers they had to endure with a hard struggle with suffering and also being shamefully treated (Hebrews 10:32-34). During this time people were being imprisoned for being believers in Jesus Christ and were persecuted and shamefully abused. The writer is showing that through these things these believers joyfully accepted the plundering of their property among much other abuse and suffering because they had their hope set on the eternal promise and therefore endured in Christian character and conduct unto the end. If we are to truly understand this passage, we have to first conclude that what it is saying is that one who has believed must also endure unto the promise of eternal salvation. In short, it is not a one and done situation. One cannot believe one day and then go along living a life of sin and expect to receive the promise of eternal salvation. Nor can one who simply chooses their own way over the Lord's. This much is clear in Scripture.

We too are beginning to live in some really crazy times and some are about to or are already going through many trials due to what is going on all around us at the present. The temptation to flee godly principles and to place trust in ourselves and our governments or even news media is surely on the rise. All you need to do is read some feeds on social media to see that many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have even taken up serious political agendas and seem to barely promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ any longer. I have to say this from the heart, that there was a dear man of God that I had looked up to for some time and followed his posts on social media because I was excited to see how the Lord was using him in missionary work. Lately, I have only seen conspiracy garbage

on his posts and much confusion and very little to no relation of it to the Gospel or godly principles of any kind. I wonder if their love has grown cold. I was disheartened, to say the least, because this was someone I thought I could look up to in the faith. Endurance is the keyword here for a reason brothers and sisters. Instead of looking to Christ for true discernment and endurance, they look to the next conspiracy theory to come from the godless and oftentimes irrelevant and even fake news sources that only bear in mind worldly principles. Even our government at times seems to talk from two sides of its mouth. One perspective is that this is bearing witness to the lawlessness that would abound in the last days spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:12 (ESV),

And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

Notice how Jesus said that because of this lawlessness the love of people will grow cold. I have to say that this issue is not exclusive to our generation as I know the Apostles and early church also felt this quaking through the body of Christ in their time. And much like then, we still have many words of exhortation to guide us through these perilous times we are living in. But again to stay on point, we have need of endurance.

Another perspective is that when we look to godless sources, we have the possibility over time to bear godless fruit. Look at Psalm 1:1-2 (ESV),

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Notice how it says that the one who meditates in God's law is blessed, not the one who looks to the godless. Now, I must clarify and say that looking at the news is not wrong because it lets us know what is going on. However, to prevent a love that grows cold, I need, and we all need a heart that looks to God and His Word for the right perspective on it. By doing so, we can be assured that what we are seeing bears witness with God or not. In saying this, we can understand through the news about the times and seasons we are in to some degree yet our hope should still be in God's Word. When we look strictly to news sources and governmental leaders for our Gospel truth it means we will be led astray much like this man of God who for whatever reason hardly even mentions Jesus any longer. Instead, I see a lot of hate and confusion. Even if much of what is being spoken of is true, if we have not love it profits us nothing in the end. We have need of endurance.

There is something really amazing that is afforded to believers to give them that extra boost of endurance that they need to receive what is promised in the end.

Much like the early church who had need of endurance we likewise are needing to be aware that there is more to being saved, there is also being kept. For the sake of this teaching, we will say that there is a saving power of God and a keeping power of God. Let's let this sink deep into our hearts as we read further and understand that just as Jesus has saved us by the mighty working of God, so we are kept for the day of redemption. The key to both the saving power as well as the keeping power is simply faith. Just as we believe in Christ Jesus so we are to walk in Him, built up in the faith (Colossians 2:6-7). I share this faith principle in the keeping power of God because there are times I know of in my life where I begin to think about past mistakes or other times when going through a struggle that the flesh tries to persuade me to handle things in a way that is not godly and as a result, my love can tend to wax cold. Other times there is a sense of fear that causes me to realize my deepest need for this keeping power because during these other times I recall my former days of living in sin and realize that if the Lord does not keep me by faith in His power that I will only fall back into my old self. I know this is not exclusive to my life or even sins previously committed but really to all because all have sinned and all bear the sinful flesh until we are received up in glory. Until the day the Lord takes us home there is a battle waging for our hearts. For this reason, we have need of endurance. And this endurance comes by faith. Oh, the simplicity of the Lord's perfect work of salvation. It is great to know that I don't have to and also could not if I tried to keep myself from sin, for it is only by the Lord's keeping power. Really, if I keep my eyes on Jesus through faith and His Word, He can keep me and He can keep us all.

There has been a Scripture in these seasons that has brought me much comfort from 1 Peter 1:5 (NKJV),

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

When my thoughts drift to a place that reminds me of my past and worries about returning there fill my soul, I find myself prophetically declaring and speaking this passage of Scripture over my life in prayer believing with all of my heart that it is true. Praise God! We are kept by the power of God through faith. So when you are in a trial over your faith and in a struggle with your thoughts and flesh speak this and believe it because it is true. This is endurance.

And also 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV),

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Yes Lord, You alone are faithful to keep our spirit, soul, and body till the day You return! Thank You, Jesus!

There is a dual way of looking at the need for this in our lives. First, sometimes circumstances come upon us in trial like form that test us and even tempt us to take matters into our own hands rather than seeking God and trusting in Him and maintaining the confidence and discernment until the end. With this is the story of the man of God I had once looked up to and of what can happen to us if we do lose that confidence and what that might look like during this current crisis we all find ourselves in.

Second, sometimes our own sinful thoughts and desires of the flesh can deceive us and we can find ourselves in a place where we have seemed to forget that it is the Lord alone who can keep us by His great power for the day He returns.

Nevertheless, in either situation, the same keeping power that affords us the ability to endure to be able to finish the course and to receive what is promised is freely given to us simply by faith and keeping our eyes on Jesus and His Word. The main exhortation at this time is that we would continue to realize our deep need for Jesus in this crisis we are in. The early church knew what it was like to lose their religious liberty and even their own lives for the sake of the Gospel. None of this moved them and neither should it move us away from being those who preach and live out the Gospel every day, for our Great and Mighty God, can keep us until the day He returns. The Lord bless and keep you all in the love and patience of Christ, in Jesus name. Amen

In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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