

Sermon 07: The Patience of the Saints – Endurance in the Final Crisis

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Opening Scripture:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12, KJV)

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

Opening Hymn: #618 – “Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus”

Closing Hymn: #532 – “Day by Day”

Introduction: The Story of Louis Zamperini – A Test of Endurance

During World War II, **Louis Zamperini**, an Olympic runner turned airman, found himself stranded in the Pacific Ocean after his plane crashed. For **47 days**, he and two others drifted on a life raft, surviving on rainwater and the occasional fish. When they were finally “rescued,” they were taken captive by the Japanese and subjected to unspeakable cruelty in a prisoner-of-war camp.

Through starvation, torture, and psychological torment, Louis endured. **He refused to break. He refused to surrender his will to despair.** His story is one of unimaginable patience and endurance.

In **Revelation 14:12**, the Bible describes God’s last-day people as possessing “**the patience of the saints.**” In the final crisis, when the world turns against God’s followers, we will be called to endure like never before. The question is: **Do we have the endurance to stand?**

Today, we will explore **what patience means in the last days, why endurance is essential, and how we can prepare for the trials ahead.**

I. What is the “Patience of the Saints”?

The word “patience” in **Revelation 14:12** does not simply mean waiting. The Greek word **hypomonē** means “**steadfast endurance under trial.**”

A. Biblical Examples of Endurance

1. Noah's Endurance (*Genesis 6:13-22*)

- Noah preached for **120 years**, enduring mockery and opposition.
- He remained faithful, even when there was no sign of rain.
- The patience of the saints means **trusting God's Word even when we don't see immediate results.**

2. Job's Endurance (*Job 1:20-22; James 5:11*)

- Job lost everything—his wealth, his health, and his family—but **never lost faith in God.**

- The patience of the saints means **holding on when everything falls apart.**

3. Jesus' Endurance (*Hebrews 12:2-3*)

- Jesus endured the cross **for the joy set before Him.**
- The patience of the saints means **seeing beyond the suffering to the eternal reward.**

II. Why is Endurance Essential in the Final Crisis?

Revelation 13 & 14 describe the **Mark of the Beast crisis**, where **God's people will face intense pressure to compromise.**

A. A Time of Trial is Coming (*Matthew 24:9-13*)

- Jesus warned that **hatred, persecution, and betrayal** will come to those who follow Him.
- The patience of the saints means **staying faithful even when persecuted.**

B. The Great Shaking and Falling Away (*Hebrews 12:26-27; Matthew 7:24-27*)

- **Only those deeply rooted in Christ will stand** when the world pressures them to conform.
- Many will **abandon faith because they lack endurance.**

C. Faithfulness in the Little Things Prepares Us for the Big Test (*Luke 16:10*)

- If we cannot stand for Christ now in small trials, how will we stand in the final crisis?
- The patience of the saints means **daily faithfulness in our walk with God.**

III. How Do We Develop the Patience of the Saints? (The Acronym STAND)

S – Surrender Fully to God (*Proverbs 3:5-6*)

- Complete dependence on God gives us strength to endure trials.

T – Trust God’s Promises (2 Corinthians 1:20)

- Memorize Scripture to strengthen faith in hard times.

A – Accept Trials as Growth (James 1:2-4)

- Trials refine us and prepare us for greater challenges.

N – Never Compromise Your Faith (Daniel 3:16-18)

- Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, stand firm even under pressure.

D – Devote Yourself to Prayer and the Word (Colossians 4:2)

- A strong devotional life builds spiritual endurance.

Conclusion: The Story of Corrie ten Boom – Endurance in the Concentration Camp

Corrie ten Boom and her family were Dutch Christians who hid Jews from the Nazis during World War II. **They were betrayed and sent to a concentration camp.**

Corrie and her sister Betsie suffered **starvation, brutality, and sickness**. Yet, **even in that dark place, they remained faithful**. They led secret Bible studies in their barracks, prayed for their captors, and encouraged others.

Before Betsie died in the camp, she told Corrie: **“There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still.”**

Corrie survived and spent the rest of her life sharing her testimony.

She endured because she clung to God.

Final Appeal: Will You Stand?

The final crisis will test **who we are and whom we trust**.

- **Will you endure even when the world turns against you?**
- **Will you remain faithful even if it costs you everything?**
- **Will you stand firm, knowing that Jesus is coming soon?**

Now is the time to build endurance.

Now is the time to develop the patience of the saints.

Let us pray:

“Lord, give us the endurance to stand in the final crisis. Strengthen our faith, teach us patience, and prepare us for Your coming. May we be among those who keep Your commandments and the faith of Jesus. In Christ’s name, Amen.”