



Topic:

ENDURANCE

Bible Text: Matthew 10:22

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Prayer

I welcome you once again to the presence of the most high God in whom we have redemption through His blood, and as we know our main focus is Heaven, I pray that none of us here will miss heaven in the name of Jesus.

Study

Tonight's message would be more of a charge than teaching but we bless the Holy Spirit directs us the way He wishes. Please can someone define what endurance means? Anyone?

- 1.To my own view, it means the ability to pressed or keep trying despite all the difficulties
2. Endurance also means to be consistent in doing what you are supposed to do irrespective of the difficulties
3. Endurance for me is your ability to stand firm and support whatever is hindering you to reach your target.

According to Merriam Webster dictionary, endurance means the ability to **deal with pain**

or suffering that continues for a long time, as a soul which lives in a body, we know how it feels to undergo pain, we know how the body reacts to pain, none of us here would say he/she has never passed through any kind of pain, either when one was wounded or disappointed at a time in someone else, or during child bearing, or when someone whom we had trust in betrayed our trust, we must have get pained in one way or the other so we actually know what pain means. Endurance meaning that the strength, capacity and the capability to stay and absorb that particular pain for a very long time, I am sure English decided to look for a word named endurance because it knows that it is not easy for one to stay in pain despite the fact that the entity causing such pain is still valid so English just found a word for it and gave it endurance. Smiles. So, for one to continue to deal with pain or suffering that continues for a long time, endurance must set in, this is what makes us go into the word of God, into the book of

Matthew 10:22 KJV

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Here we see Jesus talking, if Jesus had not spoken this himself, some people would have antagonised the person who said it because our people these days do not want to hear the truth but we thank God that Jesus himself said this. Jesus knows that as a Christian we are bound to face persecutions and all sort of things, so He told us in this verse that we would be hated by all men, I want you to know that He didnt say by few men, He said by all men, which means when people start hating you because of Him, you shouldn't be bothered at all. One thing about Christians these days is that we are always afraid to bear for Christ, this is what will make a so called christian get angry and drop his Bible to engage in a fight with another person, why, because such Christian couldn't endure the insults being spoken to him by the other person.

Few reasons Christians find it hard to endure these days are:

1. **They are ignorant of what the Bible says:** some Christians are ignorant of what the Bible says in the book of Matthew 5 that blessed are ye when men shall **persecute** you, some believes that as Christians, they shouldn't pass through tough times, when you left the grip of the devil to hold onto the cross, do you think the devil would leave you completely, never, the devil does not rest in tempting and attacking Christians, if you are for the devil, he wouldn't disturb you because you are of like minds but once you determine to walk the path of righteousness, he starts trailing you.

Do you think these great men of God whom you hear their names are not being watched and tempted by the devil?

The devil never gets tired trying and this is why some Christians fall often because the moment they gave their lives to Christ, they forgot the verse which says that they should **work out their salvation with fear and trembling** When you are ignorant of what the Bible says about God's promises for you, then you begin to shiver even at the slightest

temptation and persecution, remember Stephen in the Bible, He pleaded with God to forgive those people who stoned him, why, because He saw heaven and the glory awaiting him. Great tribulation is coming, are we ready, many will give up and renounce Christ just because they lack endurance, if you consult your Bible daily and you know God's plan for you, irrespective of the persecution or tribulation, you wouldn't renounce Christ because you would quickly want to leave this world and reign with Christ in heaven.

2. All what we expect at every point in time is joy not pain: Some Christians are not prepared to bear any pain at all, this is the reason a Christian would decide not to go to preach to a particular person again just because the person insulted him the previous day, if they don't insult you, who should they insult? Have you forgotten how they smote Jesus and how they spat on Him, since they could do these things to your creator, the one who brought you into this world, how much more you who is His follower!

There was an evangelist who went to preach in a particular house a fateful day and they didn't want to hear him and in the process of him explaining himself they slammed the door against him knowingly, unfortunately, his finger was stuck in between the door, you know how painful it would be when you hit the door against your fingers, this caused a great pain to this evangelist and he left to treat himself, surprisingly, the next day, he went back there again to preach and this time, these people were surprised to see him and confessed that despite what they did to him, he still came back, this made them give their lives to Jesus, if he had not endured the pain, would he have won those souls to Christ? No, we have to endure and we have to know that we are bound to come across pain often as Christians, why?

This is not our final bus stop or abode, we have where we are going to. When your mind is set to receive pain or be hated, nothing will meet you unprepared, I also heard of the story of a young man who went to preach and was bathed with fresh grinded pepper, Kai, but yet went back to the place to preach and they accepted Christ because they had expected him not to come back but he did, we should be prepared to encounter pain for His sake because He also did despite the fact that He is God.

3. They get carried away: Some Christians get carried away with what people would say, some say their spouses would be angry at them when they refuse to join in embezzling money at work to feed the home, this is the reason we shouldn't get married to unbelievers, you have no fellowship together, you are of different fathers, then why should you match together, a true believer will never advise her husband to join other unbelievers to embezzle money at work to feed the home, though temptations might be strong but they are all going to fall back to prayers irrespective of what is happening at that particular moment.

Some find it hard to endure because the new Jeep their friend just bought through getting loan and embezzling money is making them feel uncomfortable with old Peugeot they have been using for 5 years, they now find it hard to endure using such car,

they are already carried away with material things, this is why they find it hard to endure not using Jeep. some get sad when they are termed as SU (scripture union) because they think people would start talking against them at their back, why would you think such way? Why would you allow what people say to have effect on you when your Father is telling you to do a particular thing, some are carried away with threats from the devil that they will fail a particular exam and be termed a dullard by everybody if they don't get involved in examination malpractices so they yield to the devil's advice and venture into it, may God help us

4. **Fear:** One of the major factors of people not enduring is because they fear pain, this is why someone with cutlass would enter a church and ask if there is any christian inside such church and nobody would signify as a Christian, fear, though you may say it's not easy, I accept but I tell you that if you know the glory and reward that awaits you in heaven, you will want to leave this world.

Now the great tribulation is near, is your mind prepared to stand for Christ no matter what?

Are you determined to die for Him?

Wont you receive the mark of the Beast because of hunger?

Will you be able to persevere?

When they use Cutlass to slice some Christians In your presence and tell you to renounce Him or they do same to you, won't you because of fear renounce Him? Or will you say I stand for Christ no matter what, if I die I die, will Jesus look from heaven and say yes, this is my son/daughter and stand up to receive you home?

Think about these, it is high-time we stopped allowing fear into our hearts, the Bible says that **for God hath not given us the spirit of fear but of love, boldness and sound-mind**, if you allow fear to continue growing in your hearts, it will be hard to endure for Him

What happens when you endure for Christ?

1. Your faith in Him gets strengthened
2. Your love for Him grows deeper as He continues to show His love for you
3. It saves you from eternal damnation
4. Your reward in heaven is greater
5. You send materials to heaven for the completion of your mansion
6. People see the light of God in you.

7. You are made stronger in Christ.
8. You are prepared for His coming.
9. You are willing to do anything for Him.
10. You will make heaven

Let's look at the other versions of the Bible of our main text to get some things

Matthew 10:22 CEB version

Everyone will hate you on account of my name. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:22 GNT version

Everyone will hate you because of me. But whoever holds out to the end will be saved.

St. Matthew 10:22 God's word version

Everyone will hate you because you are committed to me. But the person who patiently endures to the end will be saved.

One of the versions says, "**People will hate you because you are committed to Me**", which means if people are not hating you because of this Jesus you have received, it is either you have not really received Him or you claim to have received Him but it is not reflecting in your character, in other words you are not committed to Him. One thing we should be joyful of is that there is an end to these things that is why the Bible says that **he that endureth to the end shall be saved**, saved from what?

Saved from destruction, saved from eternal damnation, saved from the wrath of God, saved from those persecutions and pains. Which means anyone who doesn't endure will not be saved and won't inherit the kingdom of God, some people will give up on their faith when it remains just a little while for them to get to the end of it, what a disaster.

Truly, trials, temptations and all sorts of persecutions will arise but we shouldn't fear because Christ said he has conquered the world, so everything will soon come to an end. This is a charge to us and to make us deeply rooted in Him, are you ready to get your head cut off because of Him, are you ready to go hungry for His sake, are you ready to make up your mind that come what may, you would follow Christ? Or you are among those saying you don't want to partake in the great tribulation?

Anyone who partakes in the great tribulation and makes it will get rewards for enduring to the end,

Revelation 7:9-12,12-14 KJV **After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man**

could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; [10] And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. [11] And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, [12] Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. [12] Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. [13] And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? [14] And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Let's make up our minds now and get prepared to endure and accept any tribulation that may surface because of Christ, it is when we make up our minds now that we would be able to stand then.

May God grant us the grace to endure to the end in Jesus name. We have come to the end of tonight's charge/teaching, if you have any question, kindly ask.

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