

## Home Group Leader's Notes Week of November 12, 2023

### Sermon Series: *Endurance*

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The goal of this series is to encourage people to endure in faith in Christ Jesus. There are many challenges in life, some very painful. We all need the truth of God's mercy, encouragement, and even challenge. This is a major theme throughout the Bible (including those who "overcome" in the book of Revelation).

#### WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

When have you had to endure much to maintain or improve a relationship? What was the result? **For me, it was my relationship with my earthly father. This was a multiple decade challenge if I was to ever have a close relationship. Praise God for what He has done in both of us.**

#### LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

Read Romans 5:1-5

By our faith in Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection, God, in grace, ushers us into a right relationship with Him and then we have "peace with God." As a result, we see the benefits as we live in this peace by faith: (1) We boast in the hope [expectation] of the glory of God, and (2) We learn to glory in our sufferings.

As we read on, what part does "endurance" or "perseverance" play in the growth of hope? **Everyone experiences tribulations. Those who endure in faith in Christ will experience growth in their character and the hope (confidence) in Christ will sustain and even deepen in their relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.**

How then, does a life of hope grow in our lives? **We experience difficulties, endure in Christ, grow in character to be like Jesus. This, then results in true hope – a confidence that God is working and that our destiny is in His control.**

Read Romans 15:1-7

In the previous chapter, Paul developed a key command to live for the welfare of others. In this passage, the author challenges those who are strong in faith, [strong in the liberty of living unburdened by Old Testament laws and rules that no longer applied] to bear with or be sensitive to those who had strong convictions about food laws and other Old Testament teachings that Christ already fulfilled or superseded. The strong were to "build up" the weak.

How were "the strong" to treat "the weak?" What were they to be and do? **The strong were to be respectful of those who felt the need to follow their convictions about certain rules or restrictions.**

Whose example were they to follow? How were they and us to follow? **We are called to follow Jesus' example of not living to please self but God the Father. This is the biggest issue in all of life: Who am I living to please?**

How is endurance/perseverance essential to actions and attitudes? What do we learn?

What are the results of this loving endurance? **We become unified in our life purpose, desiring to glorify God.**

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What place does endurance / perseverance have in our lives individually? What does it produce?

**Without endurance, we cannot experience the growth in character, purpose, and bear fruit that God wants for us and His kingdom.**

How is endurance in relationships essential to community life? What does it produce? **Endurance is a partner with love. Endurance is an act of unselfish living, tolerance, forbearance, and forgiveness. Without these, we cannot have true community.**

### **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray for Sam, Abby, and Amani Anaya as they battle leukemia.
- Please pray for our Elders and the Pastor search team
- Please pray for Israel and Palestine

**I am praying that you experience the joy of Jesus as you sacrifice for His family.**  
**Steve**