

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: ENDURANCE

HEBREWS 12.4FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. How do I endure the hardships of life and challenges of living godly during times of tremendous stress?
2. Endurance (hupomone): Literally, to remain under. I am to remain under the pressure and stay true to Jesus when life is hard.
3. Hebrews 12 tells those who are struggling with life to not give up. Remain faithful to Jesus. You need to endure.

I. EXHORTATION #1: THINK OF GOD AS A FATHER

- A. **HEBREWS 12.4:** *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons...”*
1. There is a word of encourage addressed His children.
 2. **HEBREWS 12.5:** *“Do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him”*
 3. Why? **HEBREWS 12.6:** *“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges ever son whom He receives.”*
 4. When you are suffering, think of God as a loving Father helping us to be become better. (Rom. 5.3,4).
- B. All through this text, suffering is described as chastening.
1. “Chastening” is found eight times. (Heb. 12.5-11)
 2. Notice the connection with its benefits. (Heb. 12.11)
 3. With that in mind, be strong. (Heb. 12.12-17)

II. EXHORTATION #2: THINK OF GOD AS A FIRE

- A. The writer reflects back to Mount Sinai. (Heb. 12.18-21)
1. **HEBREWS 12.18:** The mountain *“burned with fire.”*
 2. **HEBREWS 12.19:** There was a *“sound of the trumpet”*
 3. **HEBREWS 12.20:** The people *“could not endure”*
 4. **HEBREWS 12.21:** Moses was *“exceedingly afraid”*
- B. Just like Israel, we also came into the presence of God.
1. **HEBREWS 12.22-24:** *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God”*
 2. **HEBREWS 12.25-27:** *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks, for it they did not escape...”*
 3. **HEBREWS 12.28,29:** *“For our God is a consuming fire”*

CONCLUSION: The two examples and two exhortations help us to endure the hardships of life.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: info@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

May 9, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

LIVING IN DENIAL

There are some who refuse to accept as true certain circumstances in their lives. They refused to believe that their behaviors are destructive. They refuse to acknowledge that they have certain feelings. They are living in denial.

Are you living in denial spiritually? We are told in the book of Titus that there are some who *“profess to know God, but in works they deny Him”* (Titus 1.16). These are people who are living in denial. It says that they profess to know God. The word translated as “profess” is homologeo. It is the same word translated as “confess” in Rom. 10.9. There are individuals who will verbally say that they know God. They will tell you that they have a relationship with God. But their lives tell a different story. Their language may indicate they are of the world (1 John 4.5). Their passions may indicate their love of the world (1 John 2.16; James 4.4).

We learn from 1 John 2.3 that *“by this we know that know Him, if we keep His commandments.”* We also learn from 1 John 4.8 that *“He who does not love does not know God.”* We are then told that loving one another and keeping God’s commandments are connected (1 John 5.2,3). It is only when we love God, love one another, and keep God’s commandments that we can say that we know God. Otherwise, we are living in denial. CLP

FIVE STEPS TO CHURCH GROWTH

ACTS 2:41

INTRODUCTION:

1. How can we help the church grow?
2. The church is the kingdom with Christ as King, the body with Christ as Head. (Matt. 16.18,19; 6.33; Col. 1.13; Eph. 1.22,23)
3. We help the church grow by helping the people in our lives become part of the church living their lives in submission to Christ.

I. CONDITION

- A. **ACTS 2.21:** *“And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (cf. v. 40)
- B. The church is the saved. (Eph. 5.23)
- C. We need to show people their lost condition. (Matt. 7.13,14)

II. CHRIST

- A. **ACTS 2.22:** *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus”*
- B. Peter preached a Christ-centered sermon. (Acts 2.22; John 5.36; 10.37,38; Acts 2.23,24,33,36; 4.12)
- C. We need to talk about Jesus.

III. CRISIS

- A. **ACTS 2.37:** *“When they heard this, they were cut to the heart... ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”*
 1. The Bible word is “contrition” (Isa. 57.15; 66.2)
 2. Godly sorrow results in repentance. (2 Cor. 7.10)
- B. We need to show people that this is serious.

IV. CHANGE

- A. **ACTS 2.38:** *“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent...’”*
- B. Repentance is changing the way you think.
- C. For the church to grow, we need to encourage others to change their lives by changing the way they think.

V. CLEANSE

- A. **ACTS 2.38:** *“...and be baptized”*
- B. To be baptized is to be cleaned. (Acts 22.16)
- C. For the church to grow, we need to encourage them to be cleansed of their past sins through immersion.

CONCLUSION: We all need to reach the people in our lives with the gospel so they can enjoy the blessings of forgiveness.

THANKFULNESS EQUALS FAITHFULNESS

In a passage that emphasizes our relationship with God and the new person I have become as a result of the redemptive work of Christ, I am told simply to *“be thankful”* (Col. 3.15). Is there anything for which I should not be thankful? The Holy Spirit says *“in everything give thanks”* (1 Thess. 5.18). To the Ephesians, the inspired writer tells us to be thankful *“always for all things”* (Eph. 5.20). We are to be grateful for everything. We are to be grateful all the time.

Did you know that being thankful is a key factor in our remaining faithful to God? If we turn to the first chapter of Romans, we read about people who invented their own gods (Rom. 1.23). Their lives were characterized by being unclean (Rom. 1.24,25). They were described as having a passion for things that were vile (Rom. 1.26,27). They were considered to be people with debased mind (Rom. 1.28-31). The way they thought, felt, and acted stood opposed to everything that was good, pure, and righteous. So egregiously sinful were their lives that *“those who practice such things are deserving of death”* (Rom. 1.32).

When did people begin to go down the wrong path which escalated to such sinful behavior? When did their hearts and minds lead them down such a destructive path (cf. Matt. 7.13)? The answer is found earlier in the chapter. If you back up to Romans 1.21, we learn that *“although they knew God, they did not glorify God, nor were thankful.”* Their futile thoughts which led to their ungodly choices which then resulted in their sinful lifestyles began by refusing to recognize God, glorify Him, and be thankful to Him. A lack of gratitude is a significant factor in rejecting God.

Conversely, being grateful for all things all the time plays a key role in our being faithful and remaining faithful to God. Everything that we have in this life comes from a loving and benevolent God (James 1.17). From the very breath that fills our lungs (Acts 17.25), to the forgiveness that we enjoy that gives us the assurance of heaven (2 Cor. 9.15), there is not a moment of any day that we do not have reason to be thankful. Even those times of great hardship are times to be thankful for the lessons they teach us and for God who helps us through them (Phil. 4.6).

It is when we are thankful for the blessings in our lives that are compelled to be faithful to the one who blessed us. How can I not be true to God who has blessed me in more ways that I can count?