

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: ENDURANCE

HEBREWS 12.1-3

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. EXAMPLE #1: THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

- A. **HEBREWS 12.1:** *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by great a cloud of witnesses.”* Who are these witnesses?
1. *“Therefore”* alerts us to a contextual flow that begins in chapter 11 in reference to those who had obedient faith.
 2. **HEBREWS 11.13:** These individuals endured because they were promised something better.
 3. **HEBREWS 11.16:** That promise was heaven.
 4. These examples that serve as a great cloud of witnesses encourage us to do what they did. (Heb. 12.1)
- B. With these witnesses surrounding us, there are some things we are encouraged to do.
1. **HEBREWS 12.1:** *“Lay aside every weight...”*
 2. **HEBREWS 12.1:** *“Run with endurance the race that is set before us”* (cf. 2 Tim. 2.5; 1 Cor. 9.27)

II. EXAMPLE #2: JESUS

- A. **HEBREWS 12.2:** *“looking unto Jesus”*
1. “Looking” (aphorao): Focus all your attention on.
 2. **HEBREWS 12.2:** *“the author and finisher of our faith”*
 3. **HEBREWS 12.2:** *“who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.”* Jesus endured by looking forward.
- B. **HEBREWS 12.3:** *“Consider Him”*
1. Consider His physical pain. (Matt. 27.26)
 2. Consider His social pain. (Matt. 27.39-43)
 3. Consider His emotional pain. (Matt. 27.45)
 4. Consider (think intensely) about Jesus and what helped Him endure it all. That will help us to remain faithful.

CONCLUSION: Looking forward to what is to come will help us endure whatever difficulties we face today.

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

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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

“BE ANGRY AND DO NOT SIN”

There is nothing wrong with anger. It is a part of our design. When we learn of a child being abused, we get angry. When someone endangers the lives of our loved ones, we get angry. The anger we exhibit toward the injustices of the world is called righteous anger. Even God had moments of anger (Heb. 3.10).

Just as it is with anything, anger can be misused. Sometimes we get angry, and we express that anger without any right to it (Matt. 5.22). Other times we have a right to be angry, but we allow that anger to provoke us to sinful actions. (Rom. 12.19).

Paul wrote to the Ephesians to *“be angry, and do not sin”* (Eph. 4.26). The grammatical structure indicates a permissive statement. Paul is explaining that it is okay to be angry, so long as your anger does not lead you to act in a sinful way. We can be angry, but it must be a controlled anger.

Uncontrolled anger can have a devastating effect upon a relationship. While it may take years to develop a close relationship with another, it can be quickly destroyed by one word spoken out of anger.

They say that anger is like an acid. It does more damage to its container than it does to the object on which it is poured. We must learn to keep our temper under control. CLP

ARE WE BORN IN SIN?

EPHESIANS 5:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. There is a series of beliefs that were developed in the sixteenth century by a man named John Calvin.
2. The entire series of beliefs flows from the first. Is the idea that we are born in sin consistent with the teachings of scripture?

I. THE BIBLE'S TEACHINGS ON SIN

- A. The definition of sin.
 1. **1 JOHN 3.4:** "*sin is lawlessness.*" (cf. 1 John 5.17)
 2. How has an unborn child broken God's laws?
- B. The conception of sin.
 1. Our attention is captured. (James 1.14)
 2. Our minds are seduced. (James 1.14)
 3. A decision is made. (James 1.15)
 4. Sin is brought into existence. (James 1.15)
 5. The consequence is death. (James 1.15)
- C. The solution for sin.
 1. **ACTS 26.17,18:** Be receptive, repent, believe.
 2. **ACTS 13.38:** Hear, believe.
 3. **ACTS 10.43:** Believe in Jesus.
 4. **ACTS 5.31:** Repentance
 5. **ROMANS 10.9,10:** Believe, confess.

II. THE BIBLE'S TEACHINGS ON JESUS

- A. The birth of Jesus.
 1. Jesus was born in the flesh. (Gal. 4.4; Luke 2.11)
 2. But was Jesus born in sin? (2 Cor. 5.21)
- B. The crucifixion of Jesus.
 1. Jesus shed His blood as One "*without blemish and without spot*" (1 Pet. 1.18,19)
 2. His sinlessness made Him a perfect sacrifice. (Heb. 7.26)
- C. The mediation of Jesus.
 1. Jesus entered the very presence of God. (Heb. 9.24)
 2. Jesus could not have entered into heaven as one guilty of sin. Only without sin could Jesus sit at God's right hand.

CONCLUSION: The idea that man is born in sin stands contrary with the teachings of scripture.

EVANGELISM BEGINS AT HOME

The life of a Christian is a life of service, and that service begins at home. All the attributes that are developed through the Holy Spirit are to be shown at home first. To put it another way, the attributes of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are developed when we read, study, and implement the teachings of scripture in our lives (Gal. 5.22-25). The first ones who should see those attributes and benefit from them are those in your home.

Now take that thought to another vital area of our responsibilities. The people in your family should be the first ones to hear and be encouraged to obey the gospel if they have not or come back to God if they have already obeyed. Evangelism begins at home.

The book of Acts is a book about the establishment and growth of the church through preaching the gospel. It is fascinating to me that there was a certain order that the disciples of Jesus were to follow. Before His ascension, Jesus tells His disciples that "*you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*" (Acts 1.7). Notice how the preaching of the gospel begins locally. It starts at Jerusalem. It then spreads out from Jerusalem into the nearby regions of Judea and Samaria. Only after the gospel has been preached locally that the message of salvation was to extend globally.

Our evangelistic efforts tend to be backwards. We first focus on the world. We send men to the Philipppians and Africa. We travel the world to establish the Lord's church. But we do not put a lot of effort reaching the hearts of those in our own country or in our own neighborhoods. Even if we knock on doors and hand out Bible tracts in our own communities, we neglect the most fertile soil available to us. We do not teach our own families.

Cornelius sent for Peter to come to his house and teach him the gospel. When Peter and his companions arrived, we are told that "*Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends*" (Acts 10.24). Cornelius gathered together his family and friends, so that they could hear the gospel.

Do you have someone in your family who has not obeyed the gospel? Is there a spouse, child, parent, or close relative who may have become a Christian but is now unfaithful? Before you take the gospel out into the world, start with reaching out to the those in your own household. Evangelism begins at home.