

A call to endure – Pt 2 endure afflictions & persecutions

This is our second study on the call to endure. In our first teaching we established the meaning of the word “endure” and then outlined three points from the scriptures – (1) endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, (2) blessed is the man that endures temptation, and (3) it is thankworthy if a man for conscience toward God endure grief. In this study we establish three additional points – (1) endure afflictions, (2) endure persecutions, and (3) endure tribulations.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Endure afflictions

“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions” (2 Tim.4: 5).

2. Endure persecutions

“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions...that ye endure” (2 Thes.1: 4).

3. Endure tribulations

“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your...tribulations that ye endure” (2 Thes.1: 4).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

The scriptures are full of examples of those who suffer – and include – the prophets – “suffering affliction, and of patience (Jam.5: 10), Job – of patience in enduring suffering (Jam.5: 12), Paul suffered “persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake” (2 Cor.12: 10), the Lord Jesus is our greatest example in the scriptures of suffering when He was – “wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Is. 53: 5) – on the cross at Calvary.

Question to think about.

- i) What is the difference between those who fall away during, afflictions, tribulations, persecutions and those who endure them?
- ii) What is God’s purpose in us enduring afflictions, persecutions, and tribulations?

Our answer from the scriptures.

- i) The difference between those who fall away and those who endure is – **attitude.**
 - a) they – “take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions” (2 Cor. 12: 10).
 - b) they are “exceeding joyful in all our tribulation” (2 Cor.7: 4).
 - c) they – “glory in tribulations also” (Rom.5: 3).
 - d) they “rejoice in” others sufferings” and “fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ” in their “flesh for his body’s sake” (Col 1:24).
- ii) The purpose in our enduring persecutions, tribulations and afflictions –
 - a) “So that **we ourselves glory** in you in the churches of God **for your patience and faith** in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure” (2 Thes.1: 4).
 - b) “My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather **glory in my infirmities**, that the power of Christ may rest upon me” (2Cor.12: 9).
 - c) our faith is strengthened as we trust in God to deliver us –
”Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me” (2 Tim.3: 11).
Let us endure tribulations for Christ’s sake, to His glory, that we might grow in patience, become stronger in faith that the power of Christ may rest upon us. Amen!!