

Deepening The Walk

Faith Endures

(If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Dixon by email kelly@ladiesforJesus.com)

When we endure we are actually submitting to the Holy Spirit because endurance is part of His fruit. Depending on what translation you are using when you look up Galatians 5:22-23, you will read several different words used to describe this one part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In the King James version, it's translated as "longsuffering."
The Message Bible calls it a "willingness to stick with things."
The Amplified Bible says "patience (even tempered, forbearance)."

When we look up longsuffering or forbearance in the dictionary we find that it defines each as patient endurance. Simply put, when we submit to the Holy Spirit, He gives us the ability to patiently endure trials and tribulations.

Another word used interchangeably between the Bible versions for endurance is perseverance. What does James 1:2-4 say about faith and endurance/perseverance?

Write out 1 Timothy 6:11-12 here.

Then ask yourself, "In my life, how am I fighting the good fight of faith through endurance?"

Enduring/Persevering becomes our witness. Read 1 Timothy 4:9-16. What does it tell us about bringing others to Christ through the way we live our lives?

So far we have looked at the importance of enduring for Christ's sake. Now let's look at a few steps in how we can endure.

How do I endure? Hebrews 10:32 – 38 gives us focuses we can adopt as we are enduring trials. List what each says below:

Remember the former days: What does Hebrews 10:32-34 tell us about remembering the former days? How does remembering help us to endure?

Do not throw away confidence: According to Hebrews 10:35-37, why shouldn't we throw away our confidence? Why should we persevere?

Do not draw back: According to Hebrews 10:38-39, how will a righteous person of God live? Will God be pleased with us if we draw back?

Final Reflection: Many times you may feel like asking yourself, “Why me? Why do I have to go through such trials in my life?” And I am sure you have heard the answer of “Why not you?” in regards to such questions. It is important for Christians to realize that even though we are blessed with the promises of God we are also human and not above all. God in His infinite wisdom allows trials in our lives to strengthen us. When we are facing such trials we should face them with the attitude of enduring for the Lord to bring Him glory. And in view of that attitude we will consider our trials as joy for having the opportunity to show God's love to this world through them. (James 1:2-3). - Kelly Dixon

Your Turn to Reflect: At this time in your life, do you consider yourself as submitting to the Holy Spirit by allowing His endurance to comfort and minister to and through you? If not, review the “How do I endure?” section of this study and settle in your mind how you can put these focuses into action so you can submit to the Holy Spirit in this manner.