

Standing with Endurance and Perseverance

By Mary McCave

Endurance refers to withstanding hardships, obstacles and fatigue in your life without giving up. Perseverance is the persistence to continue working towards a goal. In this article I would like to share that if we are going to stand each and everyday for Yahweh, we must do both. We don't give up and we keep persisting until we reach our goal, which is eternal life.

I John 2:25 This is the promise which He Himself made us: eternal life.

In the Gospel of Luke Jesus taught this parable to show them that at all times they have to continue to pray and don't lose heart, get mentally fatigued and then give up. In this parable, this is what it looks like to keep persisting to achieve your goal.

Luke 18:1-5 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart. Saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, "Give me legal protection from my opponent." "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

What a great example Jesus gave of this woman who was in obvious distress and undoubtedly in trouble and needed help. She had no one else to help her. She constantly nagged that judge, she wouldn't let it go, she was as a dog to a bone, and wouldn't relent until she got her protection. This is how we have to be with our prayers to Yahweh. We don't stop praying even if you have been praying the same prayer for years. Don't lose heart, get discouraged and give up praying that prayer. With all that is around us, whether it be the evil we see, injustice, unfairness and our own problems, we cannot allow ourselves to get complacent and grow weary and give up on God's Word, His promises and our future.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

We must continue to do the best we can, continue each day to do God's Will, walk in the light of His Word because in due time the Lord Jesus is coming back. We have salvation in front of us.

I Timothy 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

We have to pay close attention to what we hear; is it God's rightly divided Word or something else? We must continue to seek out the truths and promises in God's Word; because not only will we ensure our salvation but as we share with people all that God has done for our lives; and how much God loves them, it literally can change the course of their lives.

I Corinthians 15:1,2 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

We have to hold onto the gospel we have read and heard, stand strong in it and share it with others. We are saved if we hold fast to this gospel of salvation and don't give up.

Hebrews 3:12-14 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.

I Peter 5:6-10 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

We all go through the same things in life. We have joy and happiness. We also have hard times, times of great trial and we all deal with tragedy, death, despair and fear. Plus, we have an adversary that would love to take us away from our loving Father. But, we have God's Word to show us what sin is, to show us the way of life; His promises and our future of eternal life with no sorrow and no tears. We need to help each other, encourage each other, continue to share God's Word with each other and help someone when they are struggling. God's Word is a delivering Word that will lift us up and help us to continue to persevere and not lose heart and give up.

James 1:2-4,12 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance, And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

We all go through trials in life and if we persevere, we will be strengthened and see how God delivered us from each trial and we can see how much God provided for us and that gives us endurance to get through each and everything we encounter. We also have the crown of life waiting for us if we endure with perseverance.

Titus 1:1,2 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago.

Matthew 24:13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

Luke 21:19 By your endurance you will gain your lives.

God has promised eternal life. He doesn't lie to us. Even Jesus as speaking about the signs of his return, taught that we need to endure, to not quit in our heart, until we have our last breath. We hang on; we give it all each day, and persevere to reach our goal of eternal life.

I would like to share an interesting story about persevering and not giving up. It's not a true story, but it paints a great picture of perseverance and endurance.

After the fall of France in World War 2 a fable began to circulate about the fate of England. The story was told that in July 1940 Hitler and Mussolini invited Churchill to Paris for a secret conference. They met at a tea table beside a famous Carp pool. Hitler opened the dialog saying "England is finished Churchill. Sign this document admitting defeat and all Europe will have peace tomorrow."

Churchill said, "I don't agree that we have lost the war! Hitler pounded the table and cried "ridiculous!!" Why not settle this with a wager? Churchill asked. Hitler responded; what's the wager? Churchill said, "see these big carp in the pool? Let's wager that the first one to catch one without using customary fishing equipment will be the winner."

Hitler and Mussolini agreed. Hitler pulled out a revolver and emptied it at the nearest fish. The water deflected the bullets. Mussolini jumped in the pool and tried to catch a fish with his bare hands and failed. Churchill took his spoon and began to dip his spoon and toss the water over his shoulder. Hitler and Mussolini said, "what are you doing?" Churchill replied, "it will take a long time, but we are going to win the war!"

Our lives are a journey, a race to the finish line. We have to stand a lifetime, however long that may be. We have encouragement from each other and we also have great witnesses who did persevere and not lose heart and gave up.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

In Hebrews chapter 11 it shows so many believers who persevered under great trials, many named and many not, but they all had one thing in common; they persevered and endured till their end. Consider our Lord, Jesus, all he went through on the cross, the shame, the hostility, yet he knew what was waiting for him. He is now seated on the right hand of Almighty God, his Father. We, too, need to set aside every weight that causes us to have fear, doubt and unbelief. Every sin that entangles us to not do the Word of God and we need to endure with patience this race of life till we get to the finish line; our salvation. We also have all the examples God had written in His Word, great believers and examples of endurance. We have people we have known who endured that are waiting for the Lord's return. We also have many people around us today who are alive and walking with God, shining as lights in this world, living examples of perseverance and endurance.

II Thessalonians 1:3,4 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

Let us be like those believers in Thessalonica who love greatly and whom Paul, Silvanus and Timothy spoke so proudly of to all the churches. Let us be those examples in our lives today. Put on God's armor, the Word of God as it says in Ephesians 6:10-18. Stand strong, stand firmly, pray and encourage one another.

In closing, please consider the following verses;

Hebrews 10:35-39 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY. BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

Isaiah 40:31, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

Psalms 17:5 My steps have held fast to Your paths. My feet have not slipped.

Stand strong, firm and solid on God's Word. Truly, if you fall and slip get back up, keep trying, keep enduring and persevering. We have people around us who are great examples who can help us. Consider your own life; are you enduring and persevering in this journey of life?

Revelation 21:3-5 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; and there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

These words are FAITHFUL and TRUE! What comfort we have to know at the end of our lives, if we continue to persevere and endure, we have eternity!