

## BIBLE ENDURANCE

*by Larry R. Ping II*

To endure is to brave difficulties calmly; to hold fast to one's faith in Christ Jesus under the severest of circumstances. Have you taken note of what the Bible says to endure? Observe the following and make application.

**1) ENDURE HARDNESS AS A GOOD SOLDIER OF CHRIST.** This admonition was to Timothy from Paul in 2 Timothy 2:3. Hardships come the way of the faithful warrior of Christ, and Paul expected Timothy to courageously wage war against Satan and his soldiers. It is difficult to fight against the father of liars (Jn. 8:44), the devouring lion (1 Pet. 5:8) and the one who has his own cavalry of angels (Mt. 25:41). Nonetheless, if one expects to walk through the gates of Heaven, he must persevere through difficulties that come his way. How well are you enduring hardness, and how well are you fighting the enemies of Christ?

**2) ENDURE CHASTENING.** The writer of Hebrews recorded, “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son

is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Heb. 12:7). To chasten is to instruct and discipline in order that one may turn from the bad to the good. Most do not like it, but these need to note that God, through His word, chastens because He loves us (Heb. 12:6). He also chastens because we are His children (Heb. 12:8), and because He seeks our profit and our company in Heaven (Heb. 12:10-11). For that reason, we should boldly let the word, which is able to save our souls (Jas. 1:21), correct our paths and point us in the way of eternal life. How accepting are you of God's chastening?

**3) ENDURE TEMPTATION.** James 1:12 reads, “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” Temptation is as common as man himself (1 Cor. 10:13). Even Christ was “tempted like as we” (Heb. 4:15). The commonalities end in the ways in which we react to temptation. There is pleasure to some sin (Heb. 11:25), yet we must valiantly take victory over

temptation and sin. Some temptations will not bother us in the least, while others will cause us tremendous trouble. It is then that we must bear up and resist the devil “and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7). Enlist the help of others if need be, for your eternal life depends solely upon your ability to endure or not endure temptations! Remember, with every temptation, there is a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). How capable are you of handling temptations and finding ways of escape?

Take into account, “he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Mk. 13:13). Heaven is worth all of the endurance and patience that we can possibly collect, don't you think?

**NOTE:** Larry will be preaching a series of Bible lessons here, April 22-27. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to be present every service!

# THE PRECIOUS TRIAL OF FAITH

by Larry R. Ping II

Peter penned, “That the trial of your faith” is “much more precious than of gold that perisheth” (1 Pet. 1:7). There is no doubting this divinely inspired statement. But what is not completely revealed in this verse is why the trial of faith is precious and what the trial brings. To that end, we offer this article.

## 1) IT BRINGS PATIENCE.

James submitted, “that the trying of your faith worketh patience” (Jas. 1:3). The idea here is endurance, the ability to last through the difficult times of the Christian’s life. This is the same “patience” written about in 2 Peter 1:6. Each time our personal faith is tried and tested, and we successfully bear up, our endurance (patience) increases. As our age increases, the hope is that our patience will as well. Remember the words of Jesus Christ when He said, “In your patience possess ye your souls” (Lk. 21:19). Wouldn’t you say that patience and endurance are important?

2) **IT BRINGS OTHERS TO GOD.** Remember the three young men of the fiery furnace in Daniel 3? Their faith was threatened with the ultimate sacrifice, a furnace made seven times hotter (v. 19). Their faith allowed them to say, “we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (v. 18). After all was said and done, and the three young men exited unscathed, it was apparent their successful trial of faith had an impact. The king said, “there is no God that can deliver after this sort” (v. 29). When your faith is tried, who will you affect and how?

3) **IT BRINGS A HOME IN HEAVEN.** Abraham desired “a better country” and a city “whose builder and maker is God” (Heb. 11:10, 16). He ensured that he could get there by exercising his faith under the severest of trials. The Hebrew author penned that Abraham, “when he was tried, offered up Isaac” (Heb. 11:17). Would your faith allow you to

undertake such a task requested by God? Abraham has been passed on for centuries, but that has not stopped God from declaring Himself as the “God of Abraham” (Mt. 22:32). If you are looking for that Heavenly city, it will come partly as a result of your faith persevering through difficult trials.

4) **IT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD.** Ultimately, the trial of our faith is precious because it brings God “praise and honour and glory” (1 Pet. 1:7). After all, this is the greatest reason for our existence. When others see us last through those challenging times effectively, they wonder why. Then they come to find out that it is our underlying faith in our Father and Creator, and the light shines on God. May it ever be!

Always consider the trying of your faith a precious thing. Never give up and never give in, just keep on obeying God and remaining faithful to Him!

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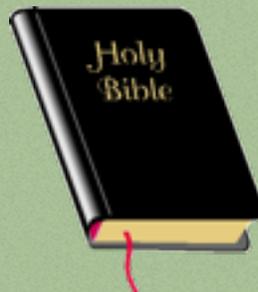
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