

## RUN WITH ENDURANCE

The Christian life is like a marathon – it takes endurance to run the race of faith to be saved.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ **Endurance:** the ability to continue with an unpleasant or difficult situation, experience or activity over a long period of time (*Collins English Dictionary*).
- ❖ “Endurance sport” refers to a race or event over a long distance, or one that demands great physical stamina.
- ❖ A marathon runner needs endurance or physical stamina to get through a race. Even training for a marathon can put a runner under stress.
- ❖ Yet, this keeps the heart, lungs and circulatory system healthy and improves overall fitness.
- ❖ Living in today’s world as a Christian is like running a marathon. But how do we “run with endurance”, in a spiritual sense, as Hebrews 12:1 tells us to do?
- ❖ According to Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology, endurance is “continuing Christian commitment in the face of difficulty.”
- ❖ Sometimes it is easy to begin well; the test usually comes along the way. Will we endure to the finish line? Will we be faithful through all the hardships, even unto death?
- ❖ The ‘heroes of faith’ listed in Hebrews 11 are like “a cloud of witnesses” (see Heb. 12:1). As ‘witnesses’, they are sometimes regarded as spectators, but the emphasis here is on the witness provided by their lives of faith. They stood fast in their faith regardless of life’s adverse circumstances.
- ❖ Hebrews 12 provides directions for running this race:
  - **Lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us.** In a physical marathon, this refers to any hindrance or burden – whether clothing or excessive body weight – and includes things that are not necessarily wrong but, for the diligent runner or the faithful Christian, must be removed. In Ancient Rome, stadium runners typically raced naked or nearly so. Colossians 3:8 commands believers to “put off” (like old clothing) sinful behaviour.
  - **Consider Jesus as the main example of endurance.** “For the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” He “endured... hostility from sinners against himself”, so, like Him, do not “become weary and discouraged in your soul.” This is the joy that is before us: knowing that by His suffering He provided redemption for the world, for you and me.
- ❖ Why do we need to endure?
  - It is a Blessing:* James 5:11 (Job 42:12-16), Galatians 5:22
  - There’s a promise to be received:* Hebrews 10:35-37, II Timothy 4:7-8
  - For Salvation:* II Timothy 2:3-5, 10-11

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Hebrews 12:1-3, 10:35-37; Colossians 3:8; Matthew 18:11, 24 :3-13; James 5:11; Galatians 5:22; II Timothy 4:7-8, 2: 3-5, 2:10-11, 3:10-12; Romans 5:3, 8:16-17, 8:35-39

In Matthew 24:3-13, the disciples asked Jesus about the signs of His coming and the end of the world. He began by warning them against deception and ended with a promise: “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

- ❖ For the early church, tribulation accompanied entrance into God’s kingdom; endurance in tribulation was evidence of their ultimate reward. Tribulations produce perseverance and endurance (see Romans 5:3).
- ❖ Endurance through suffering carries the rich reward of patience – the ability to accept delay or trouble calmly, a highly prized virtue.
- ❖ As the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy, But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra. What persecutions I endured, and out of them all, the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (II Timothy 3:10-12)
- ❖ As New Testament believers, we need to be faithful to this truth in face of persecution.
- ❖ True believers will endure no matter what the circumstance.
- ❖ The Spirit of God testifies to us that God has forgiven us and that we are His children.
- ❖ He assures us that His sufficient grace will sustain us to endure to the end. As born-again believers of the Lord Jesus Christ, let us continue to run this race with endurance.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Construct a mental or written chart comparing “the Christian race” (spiritual) to a physical marathon. Share your thoughts as a group.
2. The lesson says that “for the early church, tribulation accompanied entrance into God’s kingdom.” Discuss the attitude/expectation of the 21st-century church regarding tribulation.
3. Review the benefits of endurance listed in the lesson (and/or other benefits mentioned in the Bible) and discuss: i) How do we sometimes try to avoid tribulation? ii) What do we miss if we try to short-circuit tribulations?

### PRAYER TIME

Lord, I am determined to run this race with patience, endurance, joy and hope, so help me Jesus!

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever or would you ever want to run a marathon or do another endurance sport? Why or why not?

## "WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Thanksgiving for God's goodness, provision, protection, freedom, health, etc.



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to [announcements@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:announcements@faithsanctuary.com) by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to [media@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:media@faithsanctuary.com).)

#### To register for in-person Sunday services;

Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) > click the "Eventbrite" link in the top menu and follow prompts. **Please note: The South doors of the church open at 10:15am and close at 11:00am.**

#### FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to [www.faithsanctuary.com/give](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/give)  
For email transfers, please use [donate@faithsanctuary.com](mailto:donate@faithsanctuary.com)

*I am determined to hold out to the end  
Jesus is with me, on Him I can depend  
And I know I have salvation, for I feel it in  
my soul  
I am determined to hold out to the end*

#### **FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:**

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to [www.faithsanctuary.com](http://www.faithsanctuary.com) >click "livestream" link (or type in [www.faithsanctuary.com/live](http://www.faithsanctuary.com/live))
- Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

**In-depth Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** (Facebook and Zoom)

## FAITH FOUNDATIONS

### GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

### GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

### GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

### HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

### THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

### OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

### CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

OCTOBER 25, 2020

  
**Faith**  
SANCTUARY  
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

*2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020*

**Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie**

*"And you will be hated by  
all for My name's sake.  
But he who endures to  
the end shall be saved."  
Mark 13:13 NKJV*

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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