

# Endure to the End

## Pastor's Desk – August 23, 2020



**"...whether they make us *better* rather than *bitter*, is how we use them."**

Excerpt from Pastor's Desk  
*Endure to the End*  
by Pr. Teddy Santos  
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**James 1:2-3** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

Hardly anybody knew our Lord Jesus as James did - after all, he grew up with Him; he was Jesus' brother! James was able to watch our Lord throughout His entire life, so he knew Christ's mind remarkably well.

James states that we are to regard trials as a reason for great joy because trials can produce excellent outcomes. Yet, we must know that trials do not automatically yield good results. Why? They can quickly make an individual ***bitter*** rather than ***better***. The notion that someone comes out better from that experience depends on how **faith, hope, AND love** are practiced. The issue is how the trial is used and whether faith, hope, and love produce a higher spiritual maturity level in us. To summarize, what concludes, whether they make us better rather than bitter, is how we use them.

James elaborates on a person who is engulfed by trials of numerous kinds, and the Lord Jesus admonishes us that we will need endurance during this time, as stated in **Matthew 24:12-13** *And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

Many kinds of trials assault us, along with lawlessness, and they will increase! James is concerned about whether they will render perseverance in us or not.

The King James version (and NKJV) presents the word "patience." That may be a fair interpretation, but it is not entirely correct. "**Perseverance**" or "**endurance**" is more accurate, as most contemporary translations decipher it. This is because the Greek word used for "patience" is passive, implying that the individual is merely waiting something out. But the Greek word used here, *hupomone*, symbolizes activity rather than passivity. The individual is not only waiting for something to occur.

This is the quality that makes progression against a trial, rather than solely waiting a challenge out. James is concentrated on the examination of our belief and trust, or **faith**. In addition, there is also hope that comes from faith, which acts as a motivator to bear the struggle against life's challenges.

What is not directly mentioned here is hope, but endurance, as James suggests. There is no active endurance unless an individual would desire to achieve something, and he or she has the confidence of the best outcome from what they are enduring. Is your trust... truly... I mean TRULY, in the Lord? May we exercise our God-given faith, and have it serve us as motivation to overcome ALL challenges that may come our way, through the power that is in the Name of Jesus! REJOICE BRETHREN!

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos