

ENDURANCE

Matthew 10:22

“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that **endureth** to the end shall be saved.”

On the first page of this website the above scripture was mentioned. This scripture presents one of the most important commandments within the pages of the Holy Bible. The commandment was not handed down by Moses nor written in stone as presented to the Children of Israel in the Old Testament. This commandment spoken by Jesus himself made it very clear...Christians must learn to develop a strong spiritual relationship with the Lord to be guaranteed one’s place in God’s heavenly kingdom. One important word is stressed...**endureth**. This word is mentioned many times throughout the New Testament and is one of the keys necessary to understand the true meaning of spiritual life.

Webster defines the word **Endure** as follows:

to support adverse force or influence of any kind; to suffer without yielding; suffer patiently: to continue to exist; to last; to hold out against; sustain without impairment or yielding; to bear without resistance or with patience; tolerate; to have or gain continued or lasting acknowledgment or recognition, as of worth, merit or greatness.

Certainly the gain of a heavenly realm would be God’s most prized reward. Jesus told us the promise is free from financial gratuity but, there is a price to pay. Earning that promise will take sacrifice, strength, commitment, power and of course prayer and supplication.

Jesus also spoke: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

Did Jesus contradict himself? I think not. You see our relationship with God has to start somewhere. This scripture is the beginning. You certainly have to believe in Jesus and should be baptized. Then, for most of us the real work starts. With the exception of someone finding the Lord and then dying shortly thereafter maintaining that belief and earning God’s promise may prove more difficult than one imagined.

My father would tell me when I was young: “Anything worth obtaining is worth working for.”

That is the simple truth that Jesus is preaching in Matthew. The scriptures further these thoughts.

I Corinthians 13:7 “Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, **endureth** all things.”

II Timothy 2:1 “Thou therefore my son, be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ.”
2:3 “**Endureth** hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

Most of us have endured some trials, tribulations and exhortations. If that's all we endure then life has blessed us greatly. However, we are no better than those who've gone on before us many years past. Some of those dedicated Christians endured horrendous pain and agonies untold.

The book FOXE 'Voices of Martyrs' details in depth the many agonizing and painful torture many Christians endured to insure their salvation. Some had their fingernails pulled out, burned at the stake, stoned to death, left in the streets naked for the animals to chew on, speared to death after months of captivity, beaten badly, left in the streets as thieves steal the jewelry and clothes off their dead bodies, even crucified upside down.

This book details 100's of sufferings God's believers have endured for the sake of their Spiritual right to reach heaven.

How did Christians in those days have the courage, strength, fortitude to endure such pain and suffering?

They had a serious spiritual relationship with God Almighty. They bore the fruits of the spirit as mentioned in Galations5-22.

"But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the afflictions and lusts."

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man (or woman) that **endureth** temptations for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

Mark 13 5-13 once again, reminds us we will be hated for his name sake, but must **endure** to the end.

What end is he talking about?

We must endure until the end of our lives or until his plan for this earth is finished, whichever comes first. A serious thought that suggests a serious relationship with the Lord is required.

How we prepare our spiritual bodies to survive and endure such serious hardships is something all Christians should ponder and such are subjects to be discussed further at another time.

May God bless and give strength to those who love and honor his commandments in their endeavor to **endure** and reach his spiritual realm.