

## ENDURANCE

(Pastors' Conference – India –EKB – 1994)

1. As believers in Christ and those called into ministry we pass through times of testing and trial. It is necessary that we are able to **endure** and **stand firm** in faith without giving up or backing off; *1Cor 15:58, 1Cor 16:13, Eph 6:11,13,14.*  
*Lk 21:19* (AMPV) “By your steadfast, patient **endurance** you shall win true life for your souls.”  
*Mat 24:13* “He who **endures** to the end will be saved.”  
*Heb 12:1,2* “Let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured** the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the Throne of God.”
  
2. **The Word has many examples of those who endured:**  
 Jesus in His arrest, trial, suffering and crucifixion, *Heb 12:3.*  
 Joseph in his years of slavery and suffering in Egypt, *Gen 37-41.*  
 David on the run from King Saul, *1Sam 18-27.*  
 Daniel in the lions' den, *Dan 6.*  
 Paul as he travelled preaching the gospel, *2Cor 11:23-28.*
  
3. **Endurance saved this man's life.**  
 Recently a young man went out for a day's fishing in a sixteen-foot runabout, off the coast. It was wintertime. About 4.30pm a freak wave broke over the stern, filled the boat and it sank, except for the tip of the bow, which had a pocket of air under it. There were two older men in the boat. One was almost immediately lost, but the young man and one other, clung to the rope around the bow, as the sun set. The lights of the coastal houses came on, and went off in the late evening, as the two hung on. Through the hours of the early morning, suddenly the rope went slack as the older man let go and was lost. Left alone in the freezing cold, with fear of sharks, the young man cried out to God to save him. Slowly the grey dawn appeared but what hope was there. About 10am there appeared a freighter on its way to the port, a crew member saw him and he was saved. Seventeen hours of endurance in freezing cold water, fear of sharks, little hope of being saved, won for that young man – life. This endurance won an extension of natural life, but the endurance Jesus urges us to, has a far greater and eternal reward. How much more should our willingness be to endure.
  
4. **Brethren, we need to be strong in the Lord, and able to endure.** *1Cor 16:13, 2Tim 2:3, 2Tim 2:10.*  
 Endurance in prayer: *Lk 11:5-10, Lk 18:1-8, (Mat 11:12)*, persistent, seeking, asking, knocking. (See AMPV).  
 Endurance in faith: *Heb 3:14, Heb 6:12,15, Heb 10:36,23, Mk 11:24, 1Pet 1:6,7.*  
 Endurance in the Lord's work: *Gal 6:9, Rom 2:7, 1Cor 15:58, Jam 5:7,8.*  
 Endurance in trials: *Jam 1:3,4, 2Tim 2:3, 2Tim 4:5, 1Pet 2:19,20, Jam 5:10,11, Heb 12:1,2.*  
 Endurance in temptations: *Jam 1:12, 1Cor 10:13.*  
 Endurance in seeking healing: *Mk 10:46-52.*  
 Endurance in seeking deliverance: *Mat 15:22-28.*  
 Endurance in overcoming sinful bondage and the self life: *2Cor 7:1, Rom 6:12, Lk 9:23.*

5. **Why is endurance necessary?**

- To test our motives. Are we being earnest or casual in our attitude?
- To overcome the adversary who opposes our progress, to continue strong in faith, and to receive the promise of God. *Eph 6:10-13, 1Tim 6:12,13, Heb 10:36.*
- To continue on until the right time in God's programme, *Ps 105:19, Gal 4:4.*
- To overcome affliction and persecution, possibly from those close to us, for our stand in Christ, *Mat 13:21, Mat 10:36.*
- So we can stand in the evil day, *Eph 6:13.*
- To bring us out into an enlarged ministry. *Ps 118:5, Ps 4:1, Ps 18:17-19.*

6. **How do we gain the ability to endure?**

- *Is 40:30,31* By waiting on the Lord.
  - *Heb 12:2* Looking unto Jesus.
  - *1Cor 13:7,8* By the love of God given to us. *Gal 5:22, Rom 5:5.*
  - *Eph 6:10-13* By putting on the armour of God.
  - *Hab 3:17,18* By rejoicing in the Lord, *Neh 8:10.*
  - *Ps 1:1-3* By meditating in God's Word and growing strong in faith, *Heb 11:32-35.*
  - *1Sam 30:6* By claiming and confessing God's promises.
  - *Ps 125:1* By trust in God.
  - *Ps 23:4* By the presence of God. *Josh 1:9.*
  - *Rev 2:10* By calling upon the Lord to enable us to do this. Because of the **HOPE** that is set before us, *Heb 12:1,2.*
  - *Ps 55:22* By casting every burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain us.
- Forgive and pray for those who are causing the trial.
  - Refuse to become bitter, choose to become better.
  - Realise that there will come an end to the trial.