

HOLDING STEADFAST

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Holding steadfast, is very important and covers the entire life of a Christian. Hebrews 12:1, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily be set us, and let us run with patience (or endurance) the race that is set before us.”*

Or, “Let us hold steadfast in our Christian life and journey.”

The Bible says a lot on the subject of endurance or holding steadfast. When speaking of things that will come to pass in the great tribulation and also of things that would have to be met in connection with it, Jesus said in Matthew 24:12-13, *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*

Jesus knew that many would lose heart and turn from God's Truth, but if we endure and hold steadfast to the very end, we will be saved and receive eternal life.

There are many who are founding their hope of eternal life on some experience they have gone through, and others are believing that certain doctrines will save them. One who is truly born again is ready for the real Truth of God, but the person not born again will accept the delusions of Satan and if there ever was a more dangerous and false teaching, it is the idea that one will get to Heaven without the Word of God. A genuine Christian will be saved from such, as Moses stated when he said in Psalm 91:3, *“Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler.”*

He meant that every effort of Satan to rob and deceive—God would rebuke him and deliver those who are sincere from it.

The value of endurance is more than tongue can tell, as it all hinges on everything that God has to give

us in this Christian life. Our eternal life depends altogether on our steadfastness and endurance here. By being steadfast and enduring, God can perfect everything that concerns us. The necessity of enduring is not always known by everyone. No one can see it at the beginning of their Christian life. We are naturally born deaf, dumb, and blind to spiritual truths, but the moment we get started in the Christian life and grow and develop, we begin to see all these things.

While we are in a fallen condition and have that sin or rebellion in us, we have not the Spirit of God. All that has to be changed and we have to come to know God as He is and come to have Him as the supreme object of our love and affection and come to the place where we are fully consecrated to Him. A complete revolution must be made in our life; we must be completely made over again. In the Bible, it is called a complete transformation.

Romans 12:2, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

In 2nd Corinthians 5:17, it says: *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

Just as God took sand and made a man out of it, so He has to make us “a new creation,” a new person in the image of Jesus Christ. God can take anyone and work on their characters until they are changed from being a demon-controlled person, into one who is in the very image of Himself and His Son, Jesus Christ.

If we are to receive our blessings here and be prepared for Eternal Life, that work must be done in our lives. We are only here on this earth for a comparatively short time, and then there are only two places we can spend eternity—one is in a Lake of Fire and the other in Heaven. All sin, rebellion, ignorance and unbelief must be taken out of us and come to a real knowledge of God

It is said in Hebrews 10:38-39, *“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”*

Rebellion is the self-life, anything about us or in us that would use a plan to help ourselves to accomplish

results apart from God's power and God's plan. It does not make any difference what form it might take; it is still rebellion.

God does not forsake us because we have that rebellion in us, but in love tries to lead us out of it and show us how futile and unprofitable it is, and in every way possible, show us how profitable it is to let His power work for us and to handle our troubles. That is what our growth and development is, and as we learn His ways more and more, it will result in a full knowledge of Him and a full surrender until there is not a bit of rebellion left in us.

Rebellion often follows us far into the Christian life, as we see in David's life, when Nabal sent back a slurring answer to his message. The way David started to meet it was pure rebellion. (1st Samuel 25th chapter) Same with Joseph. It was rebellion when he asked the butler to get him out of prison. (Genesis 40th chapter) The seat of rebellion is trying by our own power, apart from God's power, to be delivered out of trouble. God, through our temptations and trials, is trying His utmost to show us how dangerous and harmful every human way and plan is, and also to show us in every way possible how valuable, and how important His plans are.

It is a long process to learn this and to fully die to ourselves; if there is any limit to our endurance and steadfastness, we are liable to fall by the wayside and eventually lose Eternal Life in the end, and thus have lost all the benefits of what we had gained in the early part of our Christian life.

There is one valuable thing to know, God is true and faithful and as long as He gets any possible chance with us, He will take care of every interest of ours. It pays to endure; and every temptation and every trial, will work out to be a real blessing when met in God's way. As Romans 8:28 tells us, *“We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.”*

The Word of God tells us, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual hosts of evil spirits that infest the Heavenly pathway.” The only condition upon which anyone can enter is, that we must start right. If there is any faulty foundation in our Christian life, it will fail. We cannot afford for a single moment to have one thing about us that is not genuine, because Satan will find it.

Jesus said just before His crucifixion: John 14:30, *“For the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.”*

In Luke 14:31, Jesus said, *“What king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?”*

Does he not sit down first and figure out whether he is going to be victorious on the field? It is the same in the Christian life, we have to settle this endurance question at the start. There is no experimenting when it concerns the things of God. It must be final and forever, or not at all. That makes the Christian life a success because it lays a real foundation.

Jesus also meant, we are not only to sit down and count the cost, but we are to settle it that if we have to lose our life in the service of God, we will do it. That is to be the limit of our endurance. We are never to give up.

If anyone starts in this way, they have a good chance of finishing the journey; but if we set a limit on our endurance, Satan will be there to defeat us. The one all-important thing to do is to start right, by settling it that even our own lives are not going to stand in the way of the will of God and that we are going through, whatever the cost. Then God can get full possession of us and will keep us in all circumstances.

Paul brings this out in Ephesians 6:10-12, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

We have another admonition in Philippians 2:5-6, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Or, “this attitude of surrender; this kind of a decision in your Christian life.”) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”*

Now, if Jesus Christ, Who did not have to go through these things, Who had no sin, but just came down here and went through these trials and temptations and endured to the end—even unto death, all for

someone else, how much more ought we to be willing to take this same kind of surrender, considering how necessary it is for our eternal salvation?

(Verses 7-8) *“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

He hanged alive six hours on the Cross, slowly bleeding to death—just for the sake of being obedient and of enduring to the end. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed that if it was possible, such a terrible Luke 22:42)

Even His perspiration was like great drops of blood, because of the anguish and agony He was in, as He surrendered even unto death.

Paul continues: (Verses 9-12) *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, ordeal might be spared Him, but He always finished His prayer with, “Not my will, by thine, be done.” (and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed.”*

Or, “Always held steadfast in your decision to go through in God's way.”

(12) *“not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* Or, “Be careful to go through in God's way. Hold steadfast in His Truth and Word.

(13) *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”*

We have not only the example of Jesus but we have the example of Job. James refers to him very specifically. He wrote in James 5:11, *“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”*

Or, “We count them very happy people who go through their trials successfully and hold steadfast.”

Job did not know his eternal life was at stake. He did not know the self-life was dominating his life. It is such a subtle thing that only God can expose it. When

these calamities came to Job, he held steadfast. There was not one of the things that happened to Job that were not absolutely necessary to save him from the eternal Lake of Fire.

It is the same with us. There is not a trial, a temptation, or a thing said or done to us that is not absolutely necessary. We need to search out our own hearts and have them clean and pure and have God as the supreme object of our love and affection, and absolutely cast every care on Him, placing everything in His hands, then we will prove that “If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Paul is another case. You will recall that he gave the Corinthians a list of things he had to go through—anything the devil could do was done to him. He started out right and settled it that whether or not his blood would be poured out, it would make no difference. That is the reason he was able to go through to the end. His final testimony was, Acts 20:22-24

“And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

That is the attitude we need. He found bonds and imprisonment, and finally death by martyrdom, but at the close of his life he had this testimony, 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: ” (And he had some things to go through) *“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”*



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