



SEVEN SPICES
Part 4 : Endurance
Sunday October 17, 2010

Review : 2 Peter 1:5-11

Peter lists 7 things to add to our faith
Virtue (good character)
Knowledge (spiritual understanding, renewed mind)
Discipline (Self-Control, temperance)
Perseverance (Endurance, patience)
Godliness (Purity, reverence)
Brotherly Kindness (fellowship, warm friendliness)
Love

If we do add these to our faith, that is develop these in our lives along with our faith -
- you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (vs 8)
- for if you do these things you will never stumble (vs 10)

If you lack these, then you are
- shortsighted, even to blindness, blinded to spiritual realities - cannot see clearly or at best only see the immediate, but cannot see the long term (vs 9)
- forget that you were cleansed from your old sins and tend to go back (vs 9)

Message Bible

2 Peter 1:5-7

5 So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding,
6 alert discipline, **passionate patience**, reverent wonder,
7 warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others.

Today: Add to your faith ... ENDURANCE

What is "endurance"?

Greek = cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy, patient continuance (waiting).

Endurance is the ability to:

- **Press through** (persevere) with determination overcoming all obstacles – as in living the Christian life each day in spite of all the day-to-day challenges.
- **Pursue with a resolve** that cannot be diminished with time or difficulties – as in pursuing the fulfillment of a dream God has put in your heart.
- **Patiently wait** till the expected outcome arrives – as in believing God for an answer to prayer that takes much longer than anticipated.
- **Passionately hold on to what is right and true** with a firmness that cannot be weakened – as in overcoming temptation or persecution for your faith.

Endurance is what gives us durability or longevity.

It is the difference between being a "shooting star" and a "shinning star".



In the natural we know that the way you develop endurance is by gradually pushing ourselves beyond our comfortable limits. Example: developing the ability to do a 5km run. You can read all the theory on this. You can understand all the physiology behind this. You can sit in all the classes on this. But the only way to develop the ability to do a 5km run is to first run 100m, then 200m, then 500m, and slowly develop endurance for longer distances, until you have the endurance required to do the 5km.

Galatians 5:22,23 patience is a fruit of the Spirit.
James 1:2-4 the testing of your faith produces patience (endurance).
Romans 5:3 knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.

Life-Situations that require endurance

1, When things require time, effort and preparation

Many things in life require time, effort and preparation.
Sometimes even fun things in life require time, e.g. Fishing
2 Timothy 2:3,10 In Christian ministry we are called to endure hardships.

2, When things go wrong

Sometimes things don't always go the way you want it.

For 1, and 2

- **Press through** (persevere) with determination overcoming all obstacles
- **Pursue with a resolve** that cannot be diminished with time or difficulties

3, When things are delayed

- **Patiently wait** till the expected outcome arrives

4, When things distract or discourage

Overcoming Temptation and persecution
Enduring temptation James 1:12
Suffering wrongfully in the workplace 1 Peter 2:18-21
Suffering for the name of Christ Mark 13:13

- **Passionately hold on to what is right and true** with a firmness that cannot be weakened

What to do when you are "enduring"?

Look at Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3

Anchor yourself on His promise

Psalm 40:1-3

Be inspired by testimonies

James 5:7-11

Testimonies of other men/women of God: Abraham, Joseph, David.
Revelation 19:11



While we can encourage ourselves in what God has done in and for others, we must also remember that God does not always work exactly the same way in every one's lives. The outcome is the same – God demonstrates His goodness and faithfulness. However, the processes are different – the journey He takes each one through is different.

Example: Plants growing. Some seeds germinate in a few days. Others in a few weeks and some take months (e.g. bamboo palm seeds take up to 9 months to germinate).

Welcome the present objectives

God is doing something in your life in the present.

We must understand that God works skillfully and progressively. Why did God take 6 days to bring about what He wanted in the heavens and the earth, when He could have done it all in just one moment. For whatever reason, perhaps known only to Him, God works progressively. He took it a day at a time.

In going from 1 to 100 you are going through several stages of 1 to 10, only at new levels. 1 to 10, 11 to 20, 21 to 30, 31 to 40, and so on. At each new level, you go through similar stages of 1, 2, 3, 4,...10.

At the end of each day, "God saw that it was good", and He did not worry about the things that needed to be done the next day. He celebrated what was done that day. Celebrate every progress that is made. You may not be where you want to be, but celebrate the fact, that you are not where you used to be. Count it all joy...enjoy the journey.

Stick to the original vision – make adjustments if necessary

Remember the end result

The processes of God take time, but the promotion of God comes in a moment.

As in a race, in Christian life, you are rewarded not for how well you started, but for how you finished. He who endures to the end will be saved.

Why do things take time? Several reasons:

- God releases things in the fullness of time, the 'kairos' moment.
- So that the "value level" of the outcome, in our hearts increases. It will be worth the wait.
- So that the "desperation level" in our hearts increases. There is a certain level of desperation required to maintain certain things in our lives. We must hunger and thirst to be filled.
- So that the "faith level" increases. John 11. Jesus arrived 4 days after Lazarus had died.

What are the rewards of endurance?

Results in maturity and development of character. James 1:4 Romans 5:4

God finds you "approved" James 1:12

Endurance is what gives us durability or longevity.



INVITATION TO RECEIVE CHRIST

We like to end our services by giving an invitation to any one here who has never experienced the power of Jesus Christ in their lives to do so. The Lord Jesus Christ, who is God – came into this world about 2000 years ago, as a Man. He was crucified on a cross where He took upon Him the sins of the whole world and paid for them. He died and rose up again, and ascended back into heaven. He is alive today. If you will believe in Him you will be saved.