

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Learning to Endure

**SERMON REFERENCE:** James 1:2-13

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2470

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) God, as a teacher, gives the test first and then the lesson.
- b) We all go through tests and trials.
- c) James 1:2-5
  - i) In this passage, “diverse temptations” simply means different kinds of temptations.
  - ii) Most of us want strength, victory, prosperity and contentment.
  - iii) But most of us do not want tribulation.
    - (1) It is tribulation that works patience, which literally means “endurance.”
    - (2) Without patience or endurance, we will not experience victory, strength, prosperity or contentment.
- d) The Greek word for “patience” means “to abide under.”
  - i) God lays certain burdens upon us, and we must abide under those burdens in order to experience victory.
    - (1) We need to work by faith.
    - (2) We need to praise God by faith.
    - (3) We need to wait by faith.
- e) Some of us quit too soon; we need to learn to endure.
  - i) We will not learn or accomplish whatever it is we pursue unless we learn to endure.
  - ii) We will not build character unless we learn to endure.
- f) James 1:2
  - i) The word for “temptations” in this passage means “trials” or “testing.”
    - (1) God tests us; the devil tempts us.
    - (2) God never tempts us to sin.
      - (a) James 1:13
      - (b) The devil will tempt us to cause us to stumble; God will test us to cause us to stand.
        - (i) God tests us so that we can grow.
  - ii) This passage of Scripture does not say “if” we are tempted, but “when” we are tempted.
- g) Romans 5:3
  - i) In order to learn endurance and patience, there must first be something we have to endure.
  - ii) Don’t be afraid to pray for patience.
  - iii) Don’t be afraid of God’s tribulation.
- h) We should not get the idea that the Christian life is all sunshine and roses; that there will be no heartache or tears.
  - i) John 16:33
  - ii) When we go through tribulation, that does not mean that something is wrong; it means that God’s Word is true.
- i) If the trial is a temptation to sin from the devil, then we should pray and praise God.

- j) If the trial is from God, then we should praise Him and pray because He does all things well.
    - i) It is not a sin to be tempted.
      - (1) Hebrews 4:15
  - k) The tests that we face let us know that God is real in the darkest of night.
    - i) The faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
  - l) This message will show us five truths we can learn through tests and trials.
- 2) ENJOYMENT – REJOICE IN THE LORD (JAMES 1:2)
- a) To “count it all joy” does not mean to grin and bear it, but to rejoice in the Lord.
    - i) Overcoming Christians are joyful Christians.
  - b) Author Barbara Johnson stated that pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.
  - c) We can have joy in the midst of our trials.
    - i) Paul and Silas sang praises to God while prisoners in the Philippian jail.
      - (1) Hebrews 10:34
  - d) The first-fruit of tribulation ought to be enjoyment.
    - i) 2 Corinthians 7:4
- 3) ENLARGEMENT – WE MATURE THROUGH TRIALS (JAMES 1:4)
- a) We grow when trials come.
  - b) The word “perfect” in James 1:4 does not mean sinless.
    - i) The Greek word here means “mature.”
    - ii) Hebrews 2:10
      - (1) Jesus was not made sinless through suffering; He was already perfect and sinless.
  - c) Psalm 4:1
    - i) We grow the most when problems come and we learn to endure.
      - (1) Enlargement, or maturity, comes when we learn to endure.
  - d) Many Christians today are not mature.
    - i) Many teachers and preachers show giftedness and ability, but they are not mature and they fall.
      - (1) 1 Timothy 3:6
- 4) ENLIGHTENMENT – WE GAIN WISDOM THROUGH TRIALS (JAMES 1:4-8)
- a) When trials and difficulties come, we need wisdom.
  - b) Job, when he was going through his trials, debated with God.
    - i) God asked Job questions that Job could not even begin to explain.
    - ii) At the end of the book, Job stopped asking why and began to remember Who.
      - (1) That’s what we must do – we must remember Who.
        - (a) As counselors, we are not to solve other people’s problems; we are to bring them to God.
        - (b) We cannot answer the why; we are to point them to the Who.

- c) In tribulation, God will give us wisdom if we will pray and ask Him for it.
    - i) It is a mark of growth when we stop asking why and start remembering Who.
    - ii) When trials come, we need to ask God for wisdom.
  - d) James 1:4-7
    - i) With a rock-like faith, we can ask God for wisdom, and He will give us wisdom.
    - ii) God won't trust a Christian who is like a wave of the sea.
  - e) Both knowledge and wisdom come from God.
    - i) Godly knowledge is learned from looking around; wisdom is learned from looking up.
      - (1) We need wisdom to learn how to use knowledge.
      - ii) Knowledge comes by study; wisdom comes by prayer.
    - ii) Knowledge comes by study; wisdom comes by prayer.
  - f) We learn more in trials than we learn when the sun is shining.
- 5) ENTHRONEMENT – GOD WILL GIVE US THE CROWN OF LIFE (JAMES 1:12)
- a) In difficulty, pain, sorrow and perplexity, we can learn to live as kings and queens.
    - i) We cannot learn to live as such without trials.
    - ii) James 1:12
      - (1) We will be crowned.
      - (2) This is not referring to the crown we'll receive when we get to Heaven or a crown in the future.
      - (3) This is talking about a crown right now.
  - b) Romans 5:17
    - i) We are to reign in life.
    - ii) God wants us to have dominion over all of these things.
    - iii) We will never learn to be over until we learn to be under, until we endure.
  - c) Without endurance, we will not have enthronement.
    - i) If we do not bear the cross, then we cannot wear the crown.
    - ii) When we learn to endure the trials of life until God is finished, then He will give us the crown of life.
  - d) Proverbs 25:28
    - i) If we do not learn to rule over our own spirit, then we will be in danger.
      - (1) We will be like a city without walls.
    - ii) God wants us to be kings and queens and to rule in this life.
- 6) ENRICHMENT – GOD PROVIDES FOR ALL OUR NEEDS (JAMES 1:4)
- a) According to James 1:4, we can come to a place where there's nothing we want or lack.
    - i) This does not mean that we will have the key to Fort Knox.
      - (1) If we want to know how rich we are, then we need to add up everything we have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away.

- ii) The word “wanting” in this passage means “necessity.”
  - iii) God will bring us to the place, if we will learn to trust Him, where He will be there to meet our needs.
- b) James 5:7-8
- i) God wants to give us riches, but we cannot hurry the harvest.
  - ii) We see the former and latter rains in Bible times.
    - (1) The former rain is in the fall.
      - (a) It causes the seed to germinate.
    - (2) The latter rain is in the spring.
      - (a) It causes the grain to swell up and ripen and get ready for harvest.
  - c) The Bible says that we must endure if we want the harvest.
    - i) If we want to be enriched, we must endure.
    - ii) The problem with many today is that we want it now.
      - (1) This is why many people are drowning in credit card debt.
  - d) God wants to give us the riches of life, but we must endure.
- 7) CONCLUSION
- a) If you want to learn to endure, then you must enroll in God’s school.
    - i) God’s school is not the school of hard knocks.
      - (1) The school of hard knocks involves the difficulties we all have in life.
      - (2) God’s school involves the trials and testings that come from God that cause us and enable us to endure.
  - b) To learn to endure, we must first know the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
    - i) Romans 3:23
    - ii) Romans 10:9-10
    - iii) Romans 10:13
    - iv) Acts 16:31
    - v) John 3:16