

November 19th, 2023
We Have Need of Endurance
Review

1.) In part 1 of this series we began our study of our need of endurance in order to receive the promises of God. Hebrews 10:32 (Wuest An Expanded Translation) *32 But constantly be recalling the former days in which after being enlightened, you remained steadfast throughout a great struggle consisting of sufferings, 33 on the one hand, this, while you were being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and on the other hand, this, while you made yourselves fellow partakers of those who experienced the same. 34 For you both sympathized with those in bonds and accepted with joy the plundering of your goods, knowing in yourselves that you have a better and an enduring possession. 35 Do not throw away therefore your confidence which is of such a nature that it has great recompense of reward, 36 for you have need of patience in order that, having done the will of God, you might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little, a very little while, and He who comes will come and will not delay. 38 Now, my righteous person shall live by faith. But if he draw back in fear, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But as for us, we are not of the shrinking-back kind who draw back to perdition, but of the believing kind who believe to the end of the saving of the soul.*

Our need of endurance has to do with patience and is likened to a race, a spiritual race by faith as we submit ourselves to the will of our Father while undergoing trials and testing. This is a faith that we are to continue to keep and hold fast to for the entire duration of our kingdom-seeking life, and a race that will end either by our physical death or the sounding of the trumpet at the resurrection/rapture of the Church.

a.) We had studied that during our wilderness journey on this earth, we are to fix our spiritual eyes on the Author and Perfecter of our faith by abiding in His Word, and to ponder the sufferings of Christ for the purpose of the joy that was set before Him and the many sons that He would bring to glory (us). This would be particularly true in times of weariness and discouragement when we begin to look with our natural

eyes at the world around us. In those times, we must allow the Lord to renew our minds through His child training to view our present sufferings as of little moment in comparison to the glory and exaltation that will be ours.

b.) We had learned that in order for patient endurance to be produced, which brings us to the goal of our faith - the salvation of our souls and the promised inheritance laid up for us in the heavens - our faith **MUST** be tested. And this testing is through various trials as we respond **positively** in faithful obedience to them - James 1:2 *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.** 4 But let patience (endurance) have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing...v.12 Blessed is the man who (patiently) endures temptation/testing; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

c.) But before continuing on the subject of our faith being tested, we went back (as we should always do) to the OT type of the children of Israel being delivered out of Egypt under Moses to see and be reminded of the **WHAT** and **WHY** of being tested. The purpose for God coming down to deliver the Israelites from bondage to the Egyptians had been made clear on several occasions throughout their journey from Egypt to the land: first from God to Moses, and then from Moses to the elders, and then from to the elders to the people. And once this purpose had been made known, the people made a verbal confession to do all that the Lord had commanded them. They knew that entrance into the land of their inheritance was not automatic or based solely on their deliverance from Egypt, but conditional on faithful obedience to the commandments of God following that deliverance - Exodus 19:3 *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant (the condition), then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of*

*priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "**All that the LORD has spoken we will do.**" So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.*

d.) During the journey from Egypt to the land, God had provided bread for the children of Israel to sustain them. The bread from heaven was provided not just for their physical well-being, but also to test them to see whether they would walk in His laws or not - Exodus 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, **that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.***

However, their response to the provision of the bread was to change its name from what God called it, bread from heaven, to "manna" meaning, "what is it?" And in their changing of the name of the bread to manna, the bread that God had given to test them did just that. In their response to calling the bread manna, the house of Israel began to display a negative attitude, an attitude of unbelief towards the commandments of God. They had deceived themselves by failing to see what God was doing in the natural versus in the spiritual - 1 Corinthians 10:3 *all ate the same **spiritual** food, 4 and all drank the same **spiritual** drink. For they drank of that **spiritual** Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. 5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.*

And not only this, but their negative attitude was really towards God Himself and His name, for God is His Word and He places it on equal standing with who He is - Psalms 138:2 (ESV) *I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.* Because of this continued rejection of the bread from heaven, and therefore of God Himself throughout their wilderness journey, and their

constantly desiring and looking back to Egypt, they were rejected from entering into the land for which they had been delivered.

e.) This cycle of disobedience and rejection continued throughout their generations up until the Lord's first Advent, when the Word made flesh - God Himself in the person of Son - came down and dwelt once again among the Jewish people. And unfortunately, their attitude was the same then as when they grumbled and complained about Him in the wilderness - John 6:32 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst....v.41** **The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven."***

The consequences of this was the same as for the first generation of Israel to come out of Egypt. Not only had they rejected the Words of Christ and thereby God Himself during His earthly ministry, but the nation's religious leaders delivered the One greater than Moses to be crucified, preventing them from entering into the kingdom of the heavens with their King, resulting in that realm of the kingdom being taken from them and given to a new nation who would produce the fruits of it and who would heed and obey the Words of Christ.

2.) In part 2, we went over into the antitype of Christians (ourselves) who have a mature understanding of the reason and purpose of being delivered from Egypt, which is a type of the world. We have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, and we have buried our old man in the Red Sea picturing the place of death and have been raised to walk in newness of life. The old man has been crucified with Christ, and we now have the choice to live by our spirit man to follow the leading of the Spirit through the Word towards the heavenly land to which we have been called.

a.) Just as God the Father provided bread for the children of Israel to sustain them on their wilderness journey, God our Father has provided us with His Word to sustain and strengthen our spirit man for the purpose of completing our journey (the race) and to enter into His Day, the Seventh Day of Rest. This is why we are to ask in accordance with -

Matthew 6:11 *Give us this day our daily bread.*

Wuest translates this as: *Our bread, that for the coming day, give us today.*

So we could understand this as, “give us this day our daily bread FOR the Day that is approaching.”

Like the children of Israel, we have been provided with an abundance of His Word. And just as it was for them, it is given to us for the purpose of testing us, giving us the opportunity beyond our verbal confession to show by our actions that we have believed God with respect to our inheritance in the heavens that is on offer. Entrance into the heavenly land is not automatic or based solely on having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, but conditional upon faithful obedience to the commandments of God following our initial salvation by grace: Romans 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, **if indeed we suffer with Him**, that we may also be glorified together.*

b.) Luke 8:11 *Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.** 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while **and in time of temptation/testing fall away.** 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word*

*with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with **patience** (endurance).*

The level to which we esteem the Word of the Kingdom, and our response to it, will result in us finding ourselves in one of the four groups of individuals in the parable of the Sower. Remember, our attitude towards God's Word is our attitude towards God Himself and the inheritance that He has reserved for us. God is His Word and His name will be exalted above all things - Psalms 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

We also studied in part 2 the connection with God's name in and with the Seventh Day and why this is the FOCUS of all of scripture. God is His Word and all of His Word speaks of the coming Seventh Day. It does not mean that He is that Day but He places that Day equally with who He is because in the Seventh Day His name will be known to all, above all things, and His name shall be called blessed and it will be glorified. This is not presently the case because Israel, God's witness to the Gentile nations, is in a disobedient state and has profaned the name of the Lord by going after other gods, resulting in those nations doing the same. But this will soon change - Psalms 72:16 *There will be an abundance of grain in the earth (the land of Israel), On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And those of the city (the city of Jerusalem) shall flourish like grass of the earth. 17 His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be **blessed** in Him; All nations shall call Him **blessed**. 18 **Blessed** be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! 19 And **blessed** be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth (the land of Israel) be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.*

Grasping the importance of this truth will impact our response to the Word of the Kingdom greatly, and each time we hear it, we will hold it in high regard as it is the message that proclaims the Age of the ages.

3.) Exodus 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain*

*quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”...v16 This is the thing which the LORD has **commanded**: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'” 17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.*

a.) As the children of Israel were commanded to gather a certain portion of bread every day according to each one's need so that the Lord could test them, so we have been commanded for the same purpose - Ephesians 5:15 *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be (continually) filled with the Spirit,*

Our daily study of the Word is necessary as it is the food that God has provided to feed the spirit man for the purpose of completing the journey and having life in the coming kingdom. Without our regular proper engagement with the Word, rightly dividing it, believing and then acting upon it, we will not realize our goal of ruling with Christ in the coming Kingdom. As the human body cannot be sustained by eating once or twice a week, so it is with the spirit man. If we **choose** not to nourish the man of the spirit, we will **allow** the man of the flesh, who grows corrupt, to gain the ascendancy, resulting in living after its deceitful lusts and ultimately leading to the second death - Romans 8:13 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit (the Word is Spirit) you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

b.) Let's return again to the example of the children of Israel. They were commanded to gather according to their own need, but they had also been commanded to take in a portion according to the needs of the

people within their tent or house. And for each of us individually, our laboring for and in the Word of God is not just about the salvation of our own soul, but the salvation of the souls of those in the field with us, those of the household of the faith - Galatians 6:6 *Let him who is taught the word share (distribute) in all good things with him who teaches.* 7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.* 8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap age-lasting life.* 9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.* 10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity (time/today), let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

Distributing what we have gathered during the week in our own individual time of study can be seen as we assemble together for our bible studies each week. Each part of the body is doing its share (sharing what the Lord has shown us throughout the week), causing the spiritual growth of those within the body and as a whole. And all of this is done with a view to reaping age-lasting life together - 1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this **you will save both yourself and those who hear you.***

1 Thessalonians 2:19 *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? **Is it not even you** in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? 20 *For you are our glory and joy.**

2 Timothy 2:1 *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.* 2 *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.***

I hope that we can see that we have a responsibility towards one another that the Lord has commanded us to fulfill. Our diligence in studying the Word of God and rightly dividing it should be for the purpose of hearing what the Spirit is saying, resulting in good works, so that we may be approved at the JSOC. And what we glean from the scriptures, we give to others within the house who work with that same Word to see the truth

for themselves, resulting in the same thing: being a doer of the Word. In this we see the producing after our own kind, being fruitful and multiplying, making an increase of the Master's goods - His Word that He has committed to our trust.

c.) To ignore this two-fold command hinders the growth of those within the body and inhibits their full/mature understanding of Christ. Leaving them open to deception and past spiritual strongholds that we've come to call 'Laodicean leftovers'. They may be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine they are confronted with because of having not been equipped or ministered to, instead of being grounded in the truth, immovable and ready to give an answer to those who ask them about the hope they have within them. The Lord describes it as burying the amazing truths He has revealed to us, and it will have consequences at the JSOC - Matthew 25:24 *"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 **And I was afraid, (But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him) and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'...v.30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'***

d.) Exodus 16:4 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. 5 And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare (meaning to be firmly established) what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."*

On the sixth day, God provided twice as much bread for the children of Israel so that they would **be established**. For on the seventh day, the Sabbath day of rest, no work was to be done and anyone attempting to gather bread would find none. This points to God's timeframe of 6,000 years during which God has provided in abundance His Word for saved man, in order that he may fulfill the purpose for his creation and deliverance. Once Man's Day ends for us (all Christians) and we are

caught up into the Lord's Day before Him at His Judgment Seat, the privilege that we've had to study His Word, to gather together and distribute it to one another will end. There will be no more time to work out our own salvation, the salvation of our souls, or to help others on that path. That time will have ended and a new era, the Messianic Era will begin. As it was in the type, so it will be in the antitype. This cannot be avoided -

Joshua 5:12 *Then the manna **ceased** on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.*

Ephesians 5:15 *See then that you walk circumspectly (meaning carefully/diligently), not as fools but as wise, 16 **redeeming the time, (why?)***

because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is (be wise). 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be (continually) filled with the Spirit (strengthen the spirit man)

4.) Finally in part 3, we were reminded of the importance of being aware of the spiritual warfare that we are continually engaged in because of the message we hear on a consistent basis, the Word of the Kingdom. This message declares the impending removal of the spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places and offers to us the opportunity to rule with Christ from that same heavenly realm in their stead. Our place of safety and protection against being overcome in this warfare is by having faith to the saving the soul, in humble submission (faithful obedience) to the commandments of God, where we will be kept by the power of God -

1 John 5:18 *We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God (who is continually being brought forth from above) keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.*

a.) Being in this place of safety and protection, however, does not mean the absence of trials, tribulations, or sufferings in our lives. As we have

been learning, the Word of the Kingdom has been given to test us through these. But being in the place of safety does mean that we are kept from the hour of testing that has come upon the whole Christian world-

*Revelation 3:7 "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, "These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": 8 "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. 9 Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. **10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world (that lies under the sway of the wicked one), to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.***

If we would like to know what the hour of testing is that will come upon the whole Christian world, it is no coincidence that the Church of Laodicea is mentioned next. Laodicea represents the spiritual condition and the absence of the proclamation of the Word of the Kingdom within Christendom as a whole today. We must keep in mind that testing throughout the Scriptures is with regards to something specific and for a specific purpose: Our response to hearing The Word of the Kingdom and qualification or disqualification to rule, as what we've heard, is tested in our lives through various trials.

The Church of brotherly love (Philadelphia) would be kept from the spiritual condition and blindness to the gospel of the glory of Christ those in Laodicea found themselves in because of their lukewarm attitude towards the Word of the Kingdom. As a result of the work of the tares at the beginning of the present dispensation, a false message contrary to the Word of the Kingdom was introduced, bringing about deception. It had obviously been received and was rampant within the Laodicean assembly, as nothing positive is said by Christ about them

among the seven churches in the book of the Revelation. Works were present there, but they were works apart from faith to the saving of the soul (dead works), and if no change of mind was made about how they viewed themselves as opposed to what Christ said concerning their spiritual condition, Christ was about to vomit them out of His mouth - Revelation 3:15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing"—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—*

b.) But despite the spiritual condition the Church at Laodicea was in, the Lord still loved them and was standing at the door knocking, providing the opportunity for them to overcome rather than be overcome. Neither had He removed the angel/messenger that was placed over that assembly - Revelation 3:18 *I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""*

We can see that for any individual who possesses spiritual life and has not yet heard and understood the Word of the Kingdom, who is in an environment where the Way of Truth is not preached but are seeking, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, there is still time during the present dispensation for them to have a change of mind towards the Word of the Kingdom and be kept by the power of God. Or for those who at one point in time began the journey but somehow became weary or distracted, taking their eyes off of the hope set before them, time still remains to repent and do the first works, producing works of faith to the saving of the soul, and be found worthy to rule and sit with Christ on His

throne - 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

c.) Lastly, we added further commentary to our understanding of being kept by the power of God in the midst of an unbelieving generation of saved individuals. We looked at the OT account of Joshua and Caleb and studied their faithfulness as they were about to enter the land. Caleb was forty years old when Moses sent him to spy out the land at Kadesh Barnea, and he and Joshua brought back a true report, whereas the remaining ten spies brought back a bad report. So it was promised to Caleb, that he and Joshua and those below twenty years of age out of the first generation to come out of Egypt would possess the land because Caleb had wholly followed the Lord. Forty five years later, the Lord had kept him alive and he had as much strength that day as when Moses had first sent him. The Lord had kept and sustained him that entire time because Caleb remained faithful and was now ready to go in and possess the land that God had promised to him.

Similarly, our protection lies in wholly following the Lord by keeping the Word of the Kingdom and His command to patiently endure. Our present efforts to do so promise protection now from the wiles of the devil through spiritual deception, and they are also for a future purpose of not experiencing God's wrath through loss of life for the age at the JSOC.

Jude 1:20 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 **keep yourselves in the love of God (if you love Me, keep my commandments)**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto age-lasting life. 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh (**look not only for your own interest but the interest of others**). 24 **Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling**, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*

More next time if we remain, if the Lord is willing and if we have prayed and asked for our daily Bread.