

## Beginning of Message for 8/25

## Part 20

The Holy Spirit Will Help You  
with Obedience and Endurance

We may now return to 2 Timothy 2:10-13 that we left some 50 pages back. In all matters needing understanding, Timothy will be given wisdom if he will seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and establish a pattern of obedience to what the Holy Spirit leads him to do. Timothy must pray for wisdom (James 1:5) and listen to the advice of other men and women of God. By doing these things, **the Holy Spirit will give him all the guidance needed for accomplishing his task.** Let's just review these four verses.

2 Timothy 2:10-13 (NASB):

<sup>10</sup> *For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.*

<sup>11</sup> *It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*

<sup>12</sup> *if we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

<sup>13</sup> *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*

2 Timothy 2:11 (NASB):

<sup>11</sup> *It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;*

Paul used the phrase "*It is a trustworthy statement*" several times in his letters to Timothy and Titus.<sup>1</sup> I believe it is certainly self-explanatory.

**"For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him."** contrasts death and life. You see whenever a nonbeliever comes to accept Jesus as his/her Savior, that person dies to sin at the moment of salvation and a new life begins with Christ both in this world and in eternity. This is what Paul was referring to in

Romans 6:3-7 (NASB):

<sup>3</sup> *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?*

<sup>4</sup> *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

<sup>5</sup> *For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

<sup>1</sup> 1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; Titus 3:8.

*<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;  
<sup>7</sup> for he who has died is freed from sin.*

**Baptism** is an inner commitment of an outward expression. Certain denominations consider submersion baptism to be very important for the new believer. When the person is submerged below the water that symbolizes death, just as Jesus died. Then when the person is brought up out of the water that represents victory over death just as Jesus was victorious over death, and if we believe He died to be the perfect sacrifice for sin, He will grant us the same victory over death and eternal life in Heaven with a perfect physical body and a perfect spiritual mind. When we give up a life that enjoys sin and accept Christ, we die to sin and are cleansed of any sin we have committed or ever will commit in the future. That is the only way anyone can get into Heaven because

Now I want to make certain that there is no misunderstanding about baptism. Many people choose to make this outer expression of their inner commitment of receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. However, the physical act of **baptism is not a requirement for salvation**. The expression of faith in Christ is the only requirement for salvation and eternal life, but as mentioned before, that faith must be real.

After we are saved, does that mean we will never sin again? At the time of salvation when God gives us His Holy Spirit to live within us, we have all that we need to resist sin in this world. The Holy Spirit can protect us from sinning if we totally submit our will to His. The chances that we will never sin again are not very likely while we are still living in our earthly bodies because the sinful nature that exists within all human beings will make it extremely difficult to lead an absolutely sinless life. You can, however, always try to do your very best, and if God sees that in your heart you desire more than anything to do the right thing in His eyes, that will please Him very much.

1 Kings 8:18 (NASB):

*<sup>18</sup> "But the LORD said to my father David, 'Because it was in your heart to build a house for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.'*

1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB):

*<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Luke 16:15 (NASB):

*<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for **that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.**"*

Let us continue in Romans chapter six.

Romans 6:8-11 (NASB):

<sup>8</sup> *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*

Is that not exactly what 2 Timothy 2:11 teaches?

Continuing in Romans 6:9-11:

<sup>9</sup> *knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.*

<sup>10</sup> *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*

<sup>11</sup> *Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

All of Romans 6 describes how believers are freed from the power of sin. *For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.* Paul could confidently "endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen" (2 Timothy 2:10) because he knew that the promises of God were never changing and that they could be relied on one-hundred percent.

In the passage above (Romans 6:3-7), "died with him" means being able to identify with Jesus in His death. By faith, we identify with Christ in His death, recognizing that His death was for our sins, and therefore we are to have new life right now, not just at the future resurrection.<sup>2</sup>

2 Timothy 2:12-13 (NASB):

<sup>12</sup> *If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;*

<sup>13</sup> *If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.*

**If we endure** persecution and hostility we show that we truly belong to Christ and that **we shall also**, therefore, **reign with Him**. Those who do *not* **endure** give equally certain evidence that they do not belong to Christ and will *not* **reign with Him**.

Now it would not be at all uncommon for someone to say, "I believe in Christ, but what if they torture me or threaten my life, I don't know how I would get through that without weakening. I'm kind of wimpy." Have no fear and do not worry because God will provide for you to endure through any trial or suffering.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB):

<sup>13</sup> *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with*

<sup>2</sup> Bruce B. Barton, David R. Veerman, Neil Wilson, *Life Application Bible Commentary – 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 1993), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "2 TIMOTHY 2".

*the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*

## ENDURANCE

### 2 Timothy 2:12

There is a story about a man who could easily have considered himself a total failure. See what you think.

“A man who had less than three years of formal education failed in business in '31, was defeated for the legislature in '32, again failed in business in '33, was elected to the legislature in '34, defeated for speaker in '38, defeated for elector in '40, defeated for Congress in '43, elected to Congress in '46 and defeated in '48, defeated for Senate in '55, defeated for the Vice Presidential nomination in '56, defeated for the Senate in '58. His name? Abraham Lincoln.”<sup>3</sup>

Obviously defeat only pushed Abe to try again; he endured, he never gave up and, as you know, he ultimately became one of the greatest presidents of the United States. Today we will consider Paul’s call to **endurance**. Since we have not been in 2 Timothy 2 for several weeks, let us begin by reading verses 1-14.

Verse 12 is our focus here. First, let us consider several translations in order to get a better idea of the meaning:

#### 2 Timothy 2:12 ESV:

*If we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;*

#### 2 Timothy 2:12 KJV:

*If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:*

#### 2 Timothy 2:12 MSG:

*If we stick it out with him, we'll rule with him; If we turn our backs on him, he'll turn his back on us;*

So we see from these translations that **endurance involves suffering** and that we should persevere or stick it out during the hardship or suffering. The Greek word translated, “*involved*,”<sup>4</sup> is used several places in the New Testament and in the majority of those places it is translated with some form of the word “*endure*.” Endurance, according to English dictionaries, is “*the ability to bear prolonged hardship, toleration of hardship, or persistence over time*.”<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Michael P. Green, ed., “Perseverance,” in *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1989), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 264-262.

<sup>4</sup> *hupomenō* —NASB Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.

<sup>5</sup> According to the Encarta Dictionary: English (North America)

So then what are we to endure? If we look at the preceding verses in the chapter we see in verse three that we are to **endure suffering**; in verses four through six that we are to **persist, work hard** and follow the rules as soldiers, athletes, and farmers do; that is, **we are to stick it out through the challenges of life**. In verse ten we are called to endure anything that will bring salvation and the gospel to those who need to hear it. Then finally in verse 12 we are called on to endure hardship and suffering for the cause of Christ. Paul knew what he was talking about. He himself had endured much. He had been ignored, beaten, imprisoned, and shipwrecked all for the cause of Jesus Christ.

In our culture today we disdain suffering and hardship. We look for the easy life and the easy way to do things.

Each one of us has challenges and hardships in our lives. How do we greet those difficulties? Do we see them as coming from the hand of a God who loves us? Or do we grumble and complain, fret and worry about them? Do we “*count it all joy*”<sup>6</sup> and look for the power of God in the situation?

James 1:2-4:

<sup>2</sup> *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

<sup>3</sup> *knowing that **the testing of your faith produces endurance.***

<sup>4</sup> *And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Do we determine to stick it out and make it through our trials, no matter what? Do we determine that we will do it with an attitude of faith and trust in God, with an attitude of praise for Him, “*giving thanks in all things*”?<sup>7</sup>

In fact, we may not be called upon to make some great, huge sacrifice. We may find our hardship comes in smaller doses during each day of life.

Fred Craddock, in an address to ministers, [said] . . . "To give my life for Christ appears glorious," . . . "To pour myself out for others . . . to pay the ultimate price of martyrdom -- I'll do it. I'm ready, Lord, to go out in a blaze of glory.

"We think giving our all to the Lord is like taking [a] \$1,000 bill and laying it on the table-- 'Here's my life, Lord. I'm giving it all.' But the reality for most of us is that He sends us to the bank and has us cash in the \$1, 000 for quarters. We go through life putting out 25 cents here and 50 cents there. Listen to the neighbor kid's troubles instead of saying, 'Get lost.' Go to a committee meeting. Give a cup of water to a shaky

<sup>6</sup> James 1:2.

<sup>7</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

old man in a nursing home. Usually giving our life to Christ isn't glorious. It's done in all those little acts of love, 25 cents at a time. It would be easy to go out in a flash of glory; it's harder to live the Christian life little by little over the long haul." <sup>8</sup>

So whether we are called on to live with huge challenges and great suffering or to live our lives "little by little over the long haul," we are to do it with endurance. When Paul says that if we endure hardship we will reign with Christ, he is echoing Christ's words:

Matthew 5:10-12 NAS:

<sup>10</sup> *"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

<sup>12</sup> *"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

Now let us jump over to Colossians 1:21-22:

<sup>21</sup> *And **although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,***

<sup>22</sup> *yet **He** (Jesus)<sup>9</sup> has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him (God)<sup>10</sup> holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

In order for Christ to present you to God you must be "holy and blameless and beyond reproach." **You can only be those things if Christ is Lord of your life; if you truly believe He is the only source of salvation and eternal life in Heaven.** Then He can present your life before His Father. If you continue to reject or ignore Him, you will never see the millennial kingdom or Heaven. The only life that can **endure** is an obedient life.

"*Rocky*, the motion picture that won three Academy Awards, tells the story of a small-time boxer given the opportunity of a lifetime—the chance to fight the undisputed world heavyweight boxing champ. After weeks of punishing, grueling training, on the evening of the fight Rocky finally admitted the futility of his effort. "Who am I trying to kid?" he pondered, "I'm not even in the same class with da guy. But I gotta go da distance. I gotta go da distance."

"Rocky Balboa set as his goal to go all fifteen rounds. He wanted to hang in there when he knew every muscle in his body would scream to quit. He wanted to endure under pressure. As a fighter, he wanted to go the

<sup>8</sup> Darryl Bell. <http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/ff/faithfulness.htm>

<sup>9</sup> Parentheses mine.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

full distance. The fight began, but in round one Rocky was knocked down. The count commenced, but after wildly shaking his head back and forth, he struggled to his feet and lasted not just one or two more rounds, but all fifteen. He was able to go the distance because, during training, his body had been subjected to grueling preparation. Daily he had driven himself to the point of exhaustion. One-arm push-ups, back-bending sit-ups, sprinting, sparring—this had all been part of his schedule of training.

“The design of a demanding training schedule enabled Rocky to endure. Perseverance in any great test comes as a result of disciplined preparation in the ordinary days.”<sup>11</sup>

If you want eternal life in a kingdom where you will find only hope, happiness, joy, and acceptance, and spend your time in activities that you will love, the time to begin preparing yourself for such a life is right now, today. If you have not already done so, ask Jesus to be your Savior. And if you cannot do that today, if unbelief still prevents you from doing so, **just ask Him today to show you His truth and He will.** “*Knock and the door will be opened. Seek and you will find.*” (Matthew 7:7)

Matthew 19:27-30:

<sup>27</sup> *Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"*

<sup>28</sup> *And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

<sup>29</sup> *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.*

<sup>30</sup> *"But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.*

Jesus promised His twelve disciples that they would reign with Him and this applies to us as well.

Luke 22:28-30:

<sup>28</sup> *"You are those who have stood by Me in My trials;*

<sup>29</sup> *and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you*

<sup>30</sup> *that **you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones** judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

**Believers** will also reign with Christ and have positions of authority in the millennial kingdom.

1 Corinthians 6:1-6 (NLT):

<sup>11</sup> Op Cit., Bell.

*<sup>1</sup> When one of you has a dispute with another believer, how dare you file a lawsuit and ask a secular court to decide the matter instead of taking it to other believers!*

*<sup>2</sup> Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves?*

*<sup>3</sup> Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life.*

*<sup>4</sup> If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church?*

*<sup>5</sup> I am saying this to shame you. Isn't there anyone in all the church who is wise enough to decide these issues?*

*<sup>6</sup> But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers!*

Then Paul deals with those who openly **deny Jesus**. *"If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us," 2 Timothy 2:12 (NLT).*

First, Paul says, **If we deny Him**, that is, Jesus Christ, **He also will deny us**. This verse points toward some future event(s) that will test the reality of a person's faith. A person who fails to endure and denies Christ will **deny Him because he never belonged to Christ in the first place**. "Anyone who does not live in accordance with the teaching of Christ has never truly believed in God. The person who is obedient to Christ's teaching has both the Father and the Son living within them in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Those who remain faithful to the truth they have received from the Word of God show proof that they belong to God.

The Holy Spirit will not allow any true believer to deny Christ.

Many people go to church, get baptized, give generously of their finances, serve on the board, organize the bake sales, and behave as if they are saved, while the truth be told, they do not have a clue as to what salvation is all about. Many think it has to be earned. Many do not accept God and Jesus Christ as the only true God because they do not want to offend anyone. They may even believe that Jehovah God, Allah, Brahman, Confucius, and others are all the same God. These folks are going to be in store for the shock of their lives when they die.

2 John 1:9 (NLT):

*Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has NO relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.*