

Title: Overcoming – learning to endure
Pastor: Fred May
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Hebrews 10:36 NASB

³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Revelation 3:10-12 ESV

¹⁰ Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. ¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

a: Definition

(*Strong's* #5278) endure (Greek: *hupameno*) - "to hold one's ground in conflict; to bear up under adversity; hold out under stress; to stand firm; to persevere under pressure; to wait calm and courageously".

JW Hayford – “not passive resignation to fate and mere patience, but the active, energetic resistance to defeat that allows calm and brave endurance”.

b: Gravity of the command (to endure)

1. In our witness

Matthew 10:32-33

³² Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

II Timothy 2:12-13 NASB

¹² If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; ¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

2. In our love

Matthew 24:12-13 NASB

¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

3. In our obedience / service

Matthew 24:44-51 NASB

⁴⁴ For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. ⁴⁵ Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards; ⁵⁰ the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at

an hour which he does not know, ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

c: How to cultivate endurance

1. Submit to the command

Revelation 2:10,17, 25-26

¹⁰ Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.

²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—

Revelation 3:5, 21

⁵ He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

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.

2. Embrace the cross

Mark 13:13 NASB

¹³ You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.

John 16:33 NASB

³³ These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.

Romans 5:3-4 ESV / KJV

More than that, we rejoice in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

3. Embrace the grace to endure

II Timothy 2:1 NASB

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

(i) Emulate seasoned soldiers

II Timothy 2:3-4

³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

II Timothy 3:10-12

¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Hebrews 12:2-3 NASB

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of

the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- Remain undistracted, submissive; aspiring after merit / excellence.

(ii) Emulate the great athletes

II Timothy 2:5

⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.

- Keep focussed / eye on the prize

II Timothy 2:10 NASB

¹⁰ 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.

James 1:12 NASB

¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- Exercise the discipline of circumspection
- Maintain integrity - play by the rules
- Learn patience / to pace yourself

Hebrews 12:1 NASB

¹ Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(iii) Emulate the successful farmer

II Timothy 2:6

⁶ The hardworking farmer must be first to partake of the crops

- Remain motivated by the promise of reward of harvest

John 4:36 NASB

³⁶ Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

- and the confidence it produces

Hebrews 10:35-36 NASB

³⁵ Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

- Defy discouragement

II Corinthians 4:16-18 AMP

¹⁶ Therefore we do not become discouraged (utterly spiritless, exhausted, and wearied out through fear). Though our outer man is [progressively] decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being [progressively] renewed day after day. ¹⁷ For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!], ¹⁸ Since we consider

and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting.