

“How Do I Learn to Endure the Challenges of Life Without Giving Up?”

Life this side of heaven is not for the faint of heart. Trials of all shapes and sizes are inevitable—unless we occupy a space at a cemetery. Some of them are chest-crushing; others are more easily managed. All of them, however, can shake our foundation. This session focuses on how to live a steadfast life that endures all of life’s circumstances without giving in or giving up.

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Introduction:

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Col. 1:9-14)

The mature Christian is distinguished by a steadfast life that endures life’s circumstances without giving up. “. . . for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience. . . .” (Col. 1:11)

What is steadfastness? (Heb. 12:1; 2 Cor.4:8-9) (Greek word: hupomone)

Why do we need it? (Lk. 21:19; 2 Cor. 1:6; Heb. 10:36)

How do we grow in that kind of endurance?

- 1. We learn it from God** (Col.1:9-14; Rom. 15:5; 2 Thess. 3:5; Rev. 1:9)
- 2. We learn it in the midst of trials** (2 Cor. 6:4; Rom. 5:3-4; Jas. 1:3-4)
- 3. We learn it from others** (Heb. 12:1; Job 1:21; 13:15; Jas. 5:11; 2 Thess. 1:4; Rev. 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 2 Cor. 1:6)
- 4. It is hindered by sin** (Heb. 12:1; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:6)