

(Genesis 12:5)

- I. Introduction:
 - a. **(Gen 12:5)** “And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”
 - i. Essential to being an effective servant is a goal
 - 1. Abram and Sarai went out for the land of Canaan
 - ii. Effective servant accomplishes that goal
 - 1. “...and into the land of Canaan they came.”
 - iii. “Where the Soul Never Dies”
 - 1. Page 536
 - b. Endurance of a Giant Red Wood
 - i. Lumbermen and scientists who examined a big tree in California after it had been cut down found that it began growing 271 years before the birth of Christ. When it was 516 years old it was partly burned, the charred portions of the bark and trunk being visible far inside the giant. Other fires left their marks upon it in 1441, 1580 and 1797. The latter made an enormous scar eighteen feet wide.
 - 1. That tree is a lesson in patient endurance in overcoming obstacles!
 - a. Burned, disfigured and partly destroyed, each time it covered up its wounds broadened out and continued its reach toward the sky.
 - ii. **(Ps 1:3)** “And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”
- II. Nature tells us that the best in life never comes easily
 - a. Rose – Thorns
 - b. Honey – Bees
 - i. Unless willing to be stung or pricked will never enjoy them
- III. Troubles if we endure can make us stronger
 - a. Diamond – just a piece of coal being refined by pressure and heat.
 - b. **(Prov 17:3)** “The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.”
 - c. **(James 1:12)** “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”
 - d. **(James 1:2-4)** “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”
 - e. **(1 Peter 5:10)** “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”

- f. We will become better Christians by enduring hardship
 - g. “Farther Along”
 - i. Page 350
- IV. Endurance will help others be stronger
- a. **(2 Tim 2:8-12)** “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. **Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes**, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”
- V. If we want to reach Canaan we must endure
- a. **(Luke 9:62)** “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
 - i. Start the work and finish the work
 - b. **(Mark 13:13)** “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”
 - i. Trials and Troubles is a part of a Christian life. If we endure we’ll be saved.
 - c. **(Rom 12:21)** “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
 - d. **(1 Cor 15:57-58)** “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the **victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
 - e. **(1 Cor 9:24)** “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”
 - f. **(Rev 2:10)** “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”
 - i. To us today we will have trials and problems and must endure – be faithful unto death
 - g. “I Feel Like Traveling On” Page 597
- VI. Bible’s view of those that do not endure
- a. Parable of the Sower
 - i. **(Luke 8:13)** “They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”
 - b. **(2 Peter 2:20-22)** “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto

them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

- i. Dog going back to what he’s already regurgitated
- ii. A clean sow going back to be filthy

VII. Powerful People

a. All effectual lives have had in common the quality of endurance

i. Moses

1. (**Heb 11:27**) “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”

ii. Job in his afflictions

1. (**Job 27:5-6**) “God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me. My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.”

iii. Jesus on the cross

1. (**John 19:30**) “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

iv. Paul at the close of life

1. (**2 Tim 4:7-8**) “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”
2. (**2 Cor 11:23-27**) “Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

v. “An Empty Mansion” Page 294

VIII. We can also endure

a. “The road to success has its ups and downs but no stops.” Leroy Brownlow

b. (**Heb 12:1-2**) “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the **sin which doth so easily beset us**, and **let us run** with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

- c. We just need to remember this verse
 - i. **(Phil 4:13)** “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
- d. “Take My Hand Precious Lord” Page 678

IX. Conclusion

- a. Will you continue and endure the race that’s set before us with patience.
- b. If you will, you will hear him say, “...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” **(Matt 25:21)**