**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Learning to Endure |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | James 1:2-13 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2470 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. God, as a teacher, gives the test first and then the lesson.
   2. We all go through tests and trials.
   3. James 1:2-5
      1. In this passage, “diverse temptations” simply means different kinds of temptations.
      2. Most of us want strength, victory, prosperity and contentment.
      3. But most of us do not want tribulation.
         1. It is tribulation that works patience, which literally means “endurance.”
         2. Without patience or endurance, we will not experience victory, strength, prosperity or contentment.
   4. The Greek word for “patience” means “to abide under.”
      1. God lays certain burdens upon us, and we must abide under those burdens in order to experience victory.
         1. We need to work by faith.
         2. We need to praise God by faith.
         3. We need to wait by faith.
   5. Some of us quit too soon; we need to learn to endure.
      1. We will not learn or accomplish whatever it is we pursue unless we learn to endure.
      2. We will not build character unless we learn to endure.
   6. James 1:2
      1. The word for “temptations” in this passage means “trials” or “testing.”
         1. God tests us; the devil tempts us.
         2. God never tempts us to sin.
            1. James 1:13
            2. The devil will tempt us to cause us to stumble; God will test us to cause us to stand.

God tests us so that we can grow.

* + 1. This passage of Scripture does not say “if” we are tempted, but “when” we are tempted.
  1. Romans 5:3
     1. In order to learn endurance and patience, there must first be something we have to endure.
     2. Don’t be afraid to pray for patience.
     3. Don’t be afraid of God’s tribulation.
  2. We should not get the idea that the Christian life is all sunshine and roses; that there will be no heartache or tears.
     1. John 16:33
     2. When we go through tribulation, that does not mean that something is wrong; it means that God’s Word is true.
  3. If the trial is a temptation to sin from the devil, then we should pray and praise God.
  4. If the trial is from God, then we should praise Him and pray because He does all things well.
     1. It is not a sin to be tempted.
        1. Hebrews 4:15
  5. The tests that we face let us know that God is real in the darkest of night.
     1. The faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.
  6. This message will show us five truths we can learn through tests and trials.

1. enjoyment – rejoice in the lord (james 1:2)
   1. To “count it all joy” does not mean to grin and bear it, but to rejoice in the Lord.
      1. Overcoming Christians are joyful Christians.
   2. Author Barbara Johnson stated that pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.
   3. We can have joy in the midst of our trials.
      1. Paul and Silas sang praises to God while prisoners in the Philippian jail.
         1. Hebrews 10:34
   4. The first-fruit of tribulation ought to be enjoyment.
      1. 2 Corinthians 7:4
2. enlargement – we mature through trials (james 1:4)
   1. We grow when trials come.
   2. The word “perfect” in James 1:4 does not mean sinless.
      1. The Greek word here means “mature.”
      2. Hebrews 2:10
         1. Jesus was not made sinless through suffering; He was already perfect and sinless.
   3. Psalm 4:1
      1. We grow the most when problems come and we learn to endure.
         1. Enlargement, or maturity, comes when we learn to endure.
   4. Many Christians today are not mature.
      1. Many teachers and preachers show giftedness and ability, but they are not mature and they fall.
         1. 1 Timothy 3:6
3. enlightenment – we gain wisdom through trials (james 1:4-8)
   1. When trials and difficulties come, we need wisdom.
   2. Job, when he was going through his trials, debated with God.
      1. God asked Job questions that Job could not even begin to explain.
      2. At the end of the book, Job stopped asking why and began to remember Who.
         1. That’s what we must do – we must remember Who.
            1. As counselors, we are not to solve other people’s problems; we are to bring them to God.
            2. We cannot answer the why; we are to point them to the Who.
   3. In tribulation, God will give us wisdom if we will pray and ask Him for it.
      1. It is a mark of growth when we stop asking why and start remembering Who.
      2. When trials come, we need to ask God for wisdom.
   4. James 1:4-7
      1. With a rock-like faith, we can ask God for wisdom, and He will give us wisdom.
      2. God won’t trust a Christian who is like a wave of the sea.
   5. Both knowledge and wisdom come from God.
      1. Godly knowledge is learned from looking around; wisdom is learned from looking up.
         1. We need wisdom to learn how to use knowledge.
      2. Knowledge comes by study; wisdom comes by prayer.
   6. We learn more in trials than we learn when the sun is shining.
4. enthronement – God will give us the crown of life (James 1:12)
   1. In difficulty, pain, sorrow and perplexity, we can learn to live as kings and queens.
      1. We cannot learn to live as such without trials.
      2. James 1:12
         1. We will be crowned.
         2. This is not referring to the crown we’ll receive when we get to Heaven or a crown in the future.
         3. This is talking about a crown right now.
   2. Romans 5:17
      1. We are to reign in life.
      2. God wants us to have dominion over all of these things.
      3. We will never learn to be over until we learn to be under, until we endure.
   3. Without endurance, we will not have enthronement.
      1. If we do not bear the cross, then we cannot wear the crown.
      2. When we learn to endure the trials of life until God is finished, then He will give us the crown of life.
   4. Proverbs 25:28
      1. If we do not learn to rule over our own spirit, then we will be in danger.
         1. We will be like a city without walls.
      2. God wants us to be kings and queens and to rule in this life.
5. enrichment – God provides for all our needs (james 1:4)
   1. According to James 1:4, we can come to a place where there’s nothing we want or lack.
      1. This does not mean that we will have the key to Fort Knox.
         1. If we want to know how rich we are, then we need to add up everything we have that money cannot buy and death cannot take away.
      2. The word “wanting” in this passage means “necessity.”
      3. God will bring us to the place, if we will learn to trust Him, where He will be there to meet our needs.
   2. James 5:7-8
      1. God wants to give us riches, but we cannot hurry the harvest.
      2. We see the former and latter rains in Bible times.
         1. The former rain is in the fall.
            1. It causes the seed to germinate.
         2. The latter rain is in the spring.
            1. It causes the grain to swell up and ripen and get ready for harvest.
   3. The Bible says that we must endure if we want the harvest.
      1. If we want to be enriched, we must endure.
      2. The problem with many today is that we want it now.
         1. This is why many people are drowning in credit card debt.
   4. God wants to give us the riches of life, but we must endure.
6. CONCLUSION
   1. If you want to learn to endure, then you must enroll in God’s school.
      1. God’s school is not the school of hard knocks.
         1. The school of hard knocks involves the difficulties we all have in life.
         2. God’s school involves the trials and testings that come from God that cause us and enable us to endure.
   2. To learn to endure, we must first know the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16