

ENDURANCE

finding hope & strength in life's troubles

SERIES OVERVIEW

How do we *endure* in a broken world? This question was a very important one for the authors of the New Testament as they guided the early Church in their mission. From poverty to persecution to divisions to doubt, Christians faced a lot of challenges. Which is why the Greek word *hypomonē* shows up 32 times in the letters of the apostles. *Hypomonē* can be variously defined as “patience,” “perseverance,” “waiting,” “steadfastness,” and “endurance.” Regardless of how you translate it, in each of these passages it is what we are called to do.

In this series we will reflect on the biblical call to “endure” as we face another year full of our own challenges and obstacles, and another year listening to the call of God to continue in his kingdom mission. What we discover in the waiting might surprise us...

WEEK 1 - BECAUSE IT BUILDS OUR HOPE OVERVIEW

In his letter to the Roman Church, the Apostle Paul makes a startling claim. We can rejoice in the face of problems and trials. Why in the world would obstacles make us joyful? According to Paul, because it develops *hypomonē* in us. This patient steadfastness in turn develops our character, which ultimately bolsters our hope.

What would it mean for each of us, as we consider what 2025 will hold for us, to take such an attitude toward the inevitable hurdles which will be in our way? How might we allow our faith in Christ to build our confidence and trust, instead of allowing worry and anxiety to call the shots? Maybe 2025 is the year for us to learn what it means to truly endure.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 5:3-4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Romans 5:1-5](#). Why is this important?
2. What does facing adversity with endurance look like?
3. Read [Luke 21:19](#), [James 1:2-3](#), [2 Corinthians 4:17](#), and [Hebrews 12:10-11](#). How might we allow our faith in Christ to build our confidence and trust, instead of allowing worry and anxiety to call the shots?
4. *Restoration: The action of returning something to a former owner, place, or unimpaired condition.* Amy talks about “beginning the restoration back to what was intended”. How would you describe restoration?
5. What is the first step toward this kind of restoration? Why is this important?
6. How are believers changed? Do you feel like you’re being changed?
7. Discuss some practical steps we can take to grow and mature in our faith.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for your love, forgiveness, and all that you have done for us. Please help us to learn not to worry about anything; but instead to pray about everything, sharing our hearts, and trusting you with our needs. We love you.

In Jesus’ name we pray.