

# THE BLESSING IN ENDURANCE

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NAKASERO

### SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018

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Theme: Run the race with endurance:

#### TEXTS

##### **Hebrews 12: 1-3**

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith who for the joy set before him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

##### **James 5:7- 11 - Patience in Suffering**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

## **SERMON TOPIC: The Blessing in Endurance**

### Endurance : Definition

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- Steadfastness
- Holding on
- Never Giving up
- Not losing the battle
- Ability to bear prolonged hardship
- Toleration of hardship
- Persistence
- Durability
- Survival
- Staying Power
- Stamina
- Continued existence
- Fortitude
- Patience
- Faithfulness

### **Chorus :**

***There is a fight to be fought and a race to be run***

***There are dangers to meet by the way***

***But the Lord is my light and the Lord is my life***

***And the Lord is my strength and stay***

***On His word I depend he is my savior and friend***

***And he tells me to trust and obey***

***For the Lord is my light and the lord is my life***

***And the Lord is my strength and stay***

What is the blessing (**something good**) that comes out of endurance?

1. Romans 5: 3: Peace with God and

**5** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Phillipians 4:7- And the **peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Peace is not as the world gives...

The God of peace will be with you..

2. Build Character (distinctive /visible qualities) & Hope of the glory of God

And **we<sup>[b]</sup> boast in the hope of the glory of God.**

<sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we<sup>[c]</sup> also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering **produces perseverance**; <sup>4</sup>**perseverance, character; and character, hope.**<sup>5</sup>And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

- **Daniel's blessing**: insight, intelligence and wisdom, a keen mind, knowledge and understanding and ability to interpret dreams (Daniel 5:11)
- **Joseph Success** -
  - His master saw that God was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything that he did. (Gen 39: 3)
  - But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him, he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warders. .. the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did. (Gen 39:23)

HOPE

**The Lord's Coming (Never fades)**

1. **Crown of life** a mark of royalty , a metaphorical of glory

James 1:12 - ***Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God promised to those who love him.***

Revelation 2:10 - ***Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold the devil is about to throw some of you in prison that you may be tested and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.***

Song: "Be faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life"

2. **Crown of righteousness** (2 Tim.4:8) – Now there is store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous Judge will award me on that day- and not only that but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

3. **Crown of glory** I Peter 5:4 -<sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

4. **An inheritance Matthew 25:21 -23 - Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master sit at the right hand of God - Throne -**

**Matthew 25: 31 -33** <sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who **are blessed** by my

Father; **take your inheritance**, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

### **Endurance in Every day Illustration**

#### **1. The Farmer and patience** (James 5:7)

See how the farmer **waits** for the land to yield its **valuable crop**, patiently waiting for the **autumn and spring** rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

(Story of my cabbage patch)

Impatient leader King Ahab – wanted Naboth's vineyard & lay on his bed and refused to eat (Ahab was killed)

The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops

#### **2. The Athlete and the Race** - end is a crown (Hebrews 12:1)

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us **run** with perseverance **the race marked out for us**, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

We are running a race

There are witnesses watching and we are encouraged to run the race well. Cloud of witnesses (others who have gone before us)

Throw off all that entangles /hinders

As well as sin that entangles

Compete according to the rules (2 Tim. 2: 5) – similarly if anyone competes as an athlete he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules

***1 Corinthians 9:24 - Do you not know that in a race all the runners run but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who gets into the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will***

***not last but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.  
Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly....***

Run toward Jesus

No eyes for anyone or anything but Jesus, No divided attention

Not give up or give in prematurely

Not faint or grow weary

***Song: “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength they shall mount up with wings like eagles They shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint***

***Teach me Lord teach me Lord to wait.”***

Jesus an example of one who endured – don’t grow weary or lose heart

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith who for the joy set before him, **endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- Opposition from sinful men
- Placed on the cross when he was innocent
- Shed blood (vs 4)
- Hebrews 2:9 ***But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.***
- Rev 3:11: I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.

### **Endurance from of old**

3. Prophets who persevered – Jeremiah

***James 5:10 “as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”***

**Jeremiah 20:2** – Put in stocks

***I will smash this nation and this city as a potter’s jar is smashed and cannot be repaired. -He had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD’s temple.***

Jeremiah 32:2 – Thrown in prison

***The army of the king of Babylon was then besieging Jerusalem, and Jeremiah the prophet was confined in the courtyard of the guard in the royal palace of Judah.***

Jeremiah 38:6 – Placed in a dungeon

So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud (to starve to death)

Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet

### **Lamentations 3**

***“I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of his wrath” (3:1)***

***“I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall” (vs. 19)***

Yet this I call to mind and therefore have hope – because of God’s great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail they are new every morning great is your faithfulness.

### **3. Job**

You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.

Job 42:10-17 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD **restored his fortunes** and gave him **twice as much** as he had before. <sup>11</sup> All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him

before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver<sup>[a]</sup> and a gold ring.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the former part. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. <sup>13</sup>And he also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>14</sup>The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. <sup>15</sup>Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.

<sup>16</sup>After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. <sup>17</sup>And so Job died, an old man and full of years.

#### 4 . Contemporary Man/Woman what are your struggles?

- Personal Journey with the Lord (Bible reading, prayer, reading Christian books, fellowship)
- Marriage Issues –  
Divorce at 3 months in marriage  
Separation fueled and led by mother in law.  
Childlessness – pushed into witchcraft  
Taking a married man is easier than finding a single man of good standing
- Work related:  
Sleeping with the boss to rise in the ranks  
Financial gain (corruption, stealing)
- Single:  
Married but single (the temptation of just marrying anyhowly)  
Loneliness

#### Conclusion

<sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.



## **Song**

**Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life  
and I will give you the crown of life give you the crown of  
life**