

EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

ONE-TO-ONE[®]

SUMMER 2010

A man with blonde hair, wearing a red sleeveless shirt, black shorts, white socks, and grey running shoes, is in a starting crouch on a sandy track. He is looking forward with a determined expression. The background is a blue sky with some clouds.

CELEBRATE ENDURANCE

Do you have what it takes to RUN LIFE'S RACE?

“A difference between a rewarding future or a miserable one lies in how we answer.”

—CHARLES SIMPSON

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“BELOVED, WHILE I WAS VERY DILIGENT TO WRITE TO YOU CONCERNING OUR COMMON salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:3).

Ideas matter. What you truly believe—not simply what you profess—drives your actions. Bad or incorrect theology has produced entire rotting cultures. In fact, bad theology has produced the notion that there is no such thing as a “rotting culture” and that all ideas and expressions have equal merit. We have become so obsessed with the “right” of people to say or believe anything that we sometimes forget to ask whether or not what is being said or believed is right.

Deception and delusion are the ebb and flow of today’s toxic streams of information, which carry polluted data to trivia-hungry hordes who never quite seem to come to a knowledge of the truth. It doesn’t help that there is a great market out there for deception and seduction...many willing consumers create a demand for all-too-willing manufacturers.

Jude writes about “the” faith. Such exclusive talk would get Jude kicked out of most American prayer “observances” today.

Suggesting that there is one true faith, especially if the person suggesting it is a sincere Christian, can get you in a lot of trouble now.

Suggesting that there is a right way to look at things—and a wrong way—is a

shockingly offensive notion to those who would rather have a crash in the fog than to live with clarity and boundaries.

Not long ago, I heard a pleasant and well-intended rendition of “Amazing Grace,” where the singer

God; the ugly but freeing realization that he was a wretch in desperate need of salvation. We must be delivered today from the idea that “mercy” and “truth” are at odds with one another. To the one who is perishing, truth is mercy. The truth that there is

doesn’t matter, and that those who pursue truth are “Pharisees” locked into the Old Law.

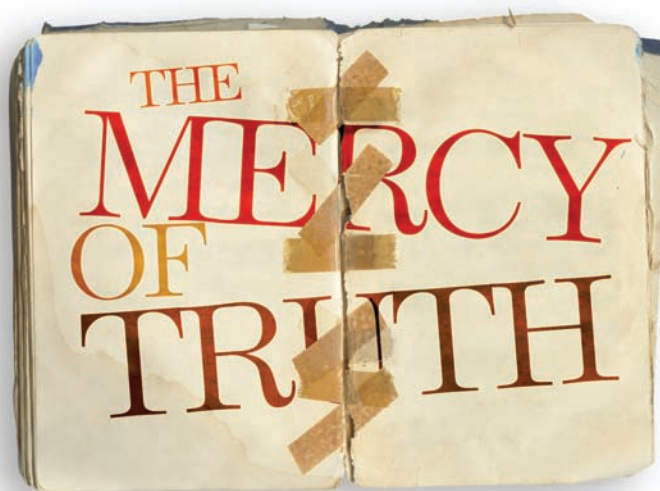
Consequently, many ministries have been bullied into setting aside the offensive message of the Cross or the Kingdom, in order to appease and mollify critics, or to somehow coddle and entertain youth. We think that if we spare our youth from the Cross, perhaps they will like us better and stick around a little longer.

But we believe that our only hope, our only way through, is **the** faith...the very same faith delivered once and for all. The faith worth contending for, even in the face of an adversarial society. We are not called to popularity, but to faithfulness. The irony is that pursuit of popularity inevitably ends up in a cul-de-sac of disappointment and disillusion.

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it” (Mark 8:35). 121

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IT STILL MATTERS WHAT YOU BELIEVE

By Stephen Simpson

took some liberties with the lyrics, perhaps in an effort to make them more palatable to politically-correct, post-modern tastes: **“...’twas grace that taught my heart to feel, and grace my fears relieved.”**

If you blinked, you may have missed it.

John Newton, author of “Amazing Grace,” understood that it was the grace of God that taught him the fear of

one way for salvation through the name of Jesus Christ sets us free. To suggest to a drowning man that a stone is the same thing as a buoy would be cruel, even if the stone was very pretty and shiny.

There are many deceivers running amok in Christendom today, peddling false doctrines and seducing many souls. Not only do they tell lies, but they smoothly suggest that truth



I RECENTLY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING PART OF A CELEBRATION AT Covenant Life Church in Atlanta. We rejoiced in the lives and ministry of John and Ellen Duke, on the occasion of his Fiftieth Anniversary in the ministry and almost twenty-three years as pastor there. It was a joyful event with numerous testimonies from family and friends regarding their influence upon so many people. I added my own stories about John and Ellen and our friendship since 1966. John has been a close friend and confidant.

It was a rich blessing to the many who gathered from a variety of places to enjoy the fruits of endurance. John and Ellen are certainly worthy of those accolades and rewards, having endured years and trials to see so many people so blessed. I could only pray that all the servants of God endure to that extent and enjoy the fruits of their service, and that other churches would honor their leaders in a similar way. Tragically, many of God's servants never enjoy such an encouraging day.

I WOULD HAVE FAINTED

I chose for my text on that occasion Psalm 27, and specifically verse 13. David wrote, "I would have fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." That is one of John's favorite texts—and mine.

David might have said, "I *could* have fainted," because he had many opportunities as he faced the lion, the bear, the giant, King Saul, or other adversaries. He could have, but he did not. He did not because he believed to see the goodness of God in this life. We all have opportunities to "faint" or draw back. But faith in our God's goodness leads us to endure to see His goodness, and a season of reward for having endured.

Our newspaper recently carried an article and large photo of a 106 year-old woman. The article told how, in her younger years, she did a man's

How to Receive Strength and Successfully RUN LIFE'S RACE

CELEBRATE ENDUR

BY CHARLES SIMPSON

work, plowing with mules in the field. “She could do anything a man could do,” her children said. “That’s what kept her strong.” Her toil through adversity built the character for endurance, and endurance brought rewards (see Psalm 126:5-6; Romans 5:1-5).

ETERNAL GOD

God endures forever, and through faith in Him, David endured trials. He did not faint. Endurance is based upon faith in the One who endures. We need faith in the One who transcends our circumstance if we are to persevere. A faith in fickle objects, ideas, or people produces a fickle personality. Such “faith” produces people who faint in the day of adversity (see Proverbs 24:10).

A faith in fads fades when the fads fade. And they always do, leaving disillusionment in their wake.

Our God is no fad or fickle deity whose mind is ever-changing. I recently heard a story about a church whose pastors kept leaving after a few months. Finally they called a pastor who said that the Lord was leading him to become pastor and

A man with long blonde hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and black shorts, is running on a rocky, dry trail. He is looking forward with a determined expression. The background features dark, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky. A dotted white line runs horizontally across the middle of the image, passing behind the runner. Large, bold, red letters spell out 'ENDURANCE' across the bottom of the image, with the runner's legs partially obscuring the letters.

ENDURANCE

that he would stay for a long time. But alas, like the others after a short time, he got up to announce to the congregation that the Lord was leading him to leave. A man stood up in the back of the auditorium and said, "I have a prayer request."

"What is it?" the pastor asked.

"I want us to pray for God," he said.

"For God?"

"Yes," the man continued, "I want us to pray for God. He can't seem to make up His mind. I want us to pray that He will make up His mind."

This true story would be humorous, if it wasn't so sad. Too often God is represented by us as being unstable, when in fact He is the eternal unchanging God (see Malachi 3:6). The world and the Church desperately need Him and true models of His evidence.

God endures; His Word endures. His truth, love, righteousness, judgments, His name, and all of His other attributes endure forever. He is not this subject of time and change. When heaven and earth pass away, He remains. Those who are anchored in Him should at the very least present stability to an unstable world. What God truly does stands the test of time and the tests that time will present.

HONOR ENDURANCE

Our current celebrity culture honors a lot of unproven ideas and personal lives that are unworthy of honor. Christians are too often involved in giving undeserved honor. Everyone seems to want their fifteen minutes of fame. Meanwhile, many who deserve honor go unnoticed, the people who day-in and

day-out do their jobs in a way that makes society function. In God's economy, endurance is one way to measure success (see Matthew 4:13-20). Without endurance, there is no fruitfulness, and that is another measure of success.



We get more of whatever we honor. Unfortunately, when we honor the wrong people or attributes, they get multiplied while the more deserving get discouraged. We need to rectify this. We place too much focus on "charisma" to the neglect of character. Charisma is only skin deep;

character is to the bone. Charisma rubs off, but character holds on. We need to ask before we applaud, how long has this endured? Does it display character or mere charisma? Then we need to encourage those who do their tasks well and endure.

I honor my parents, not only because they were my parents, but because they persevered in marriage, parenting, service, and character. They were married 56 years prior to Mother's passing. Dad pastored for more than 60 years. He was with his last pastorate for 35 years. They were never flashy, but always faithful. They kept their word, showed up on time, and remained in the hard times. So it was with my wife's parents. I think it was more true of their generation than the current one. Given that endurance reaps, what does our future hold?

We are here enjoying the blessings of history because of those who endured. We are here because of our enduring Lord and those who served Him. As I read history, I am impressed by those who persisted through persecution, depression, deprivation, and temptation. They were pillars who did not crumble in life's earthquakes, did not falter in the world's floods, and did not faint in the heat of adversity.

***We place too much focus on "charisma" to the
Charisma is only skin deep; character is to the
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We need to ask before we applaud,***

'HOW LONG HAS THIS E



I marvel at our Lord who endured the Cross, despising its shame. I admire Washington who

did not faint at Valley

Forge or Churchill who did not draw back in the face of Hitler. Those who endured the most formidable odds are the ones who got us here, people like the soldiers who gave life and treasure to purchase our freedom. These are worthy of honor. When we neglect our own history, we do ourselves and our children a great disservice. When we rewrite our own history, we betray our very existence.

What if these to whom I refer had fainted in the day of adversity? What if Moses had fainted in the wilderness or David before the giant? What if our Lord Jesus had drawn back from the Cross? What if our forefathers had surrendered to adversity and hardship? Thankfully, we do not have to answer these questions.

But what if we faint in our current circumstance? That is a question we must answer, or our children will discover the horrible answers in the future. We face some tough choices during this economy and in

this unstable culture. There are also tough personal issues that confront us. Can we endure to see a better future? Or will we fold up in the face of trouble? The difference between a rewarding future and a miserable one lies in how we answer.

THE STUFF OF ENDURANCE

Do we have the right stuff? The right stuff is beyond mere ambition or desire. Without preparation, we will no more likely succeed in perseverance than an amateur astronaut or a sandlot ballplayer in the big leagues. Ambition alone will take you well beyond your boundaries into disaster. But that need not be; the Lord desires to prepare us for a future that He sees, though we do not.

David says in Psalm 10:17, "Lord, you have heard the desire of the humble; you will prepare their heart." Humility allows God to train us for the inevitable. He knows what it will take and when we will be ready to deal with what is coming. But pride propels us into areas for which we are sadly unprepared.

I was eager to drive when I was a boy. At age 12, I was trying to drive around our yard. At age 14, I was driving a truck delivering groceries. I was proud, but unprepared. My

dad tied to warn me. "It takes a wreck to make a good driver," he said. He was wrong about me—it took me more than one. It was only God's grace that caused me to survive. Some will tell you that I'm still not a good driver!

Sometimes we must crash before humility comes, hopefully not too late. The Bible gives us many wise warnings about pride—the enemy of endurance. It goes before destruction (see Proverbs 16:18). It brings us low (see Proverbs 29:23). God brings it down (see Daniel 4:37). It deceives us (see Obadiah 3). It is not of God (see 1 John 2:16).

Because of it, Lucifer lost his place (see Ezekiel 28).

Humility, however, brings dependence upon God and His promotion.

It causes us to wait on the Lord and be encouraged (see Psalm 27:14). It causes us to mount up like eagles (see Isaiah 40:31). It brings God's exaltation (see Luke 14:11). It



CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

**neglect of character.
bone.**

N D U R E D?'





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WARNING: *Graphic story. Do not read while eating. Especially if eating marsupials. Also, do not read if you are offended by my incorrect spelling of “opossum”.*

IN OUR FAMILY, RELAXATION IS VERY hard work. It is a known fact that no matter when we try to go on a rare vacation, and no matter where, there will be a major construction project beginning at our hotel corresponding with our arrival. Or possibly a hurricane. As I write these words, my wife, Susanne, and I are attempting to celebrate our recent Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary by traveling to a country which has suddenly become shrouded in clouds of volcanic ash.

I think that major resorts, and possibly nations, should pay us to stay away.

This Spring, on the actual date of our Silver Wedding Anniversary, Susanne and I planned a quiet day together, with a lovely lunch scheduled overlooking Mobile Bay. As I was preparing to meet her, I received a phone call from my college-aged daughter, Gracie, who was driving home from class. Her tearful voice on the other end of the line startled me.

“Daddy, where are you?”

“I’m at home, what’s wrong?”

No parent wants to hear their daughter crying on the phone when she is supposed to be arriving home. I braced for bad news.

“Oh, Daddy, it’s terrible!”

“Honey, where are you? What’s wrong?”

“Daddy, somebody here in the neighborhood had an accident and”

Dramatic pause.

“Daddy, somebody has hit a possum with their car.”

Long exhale from Dad.

“But, it’s a Momma possum, and she’s dead, and there are possum babies coming out and they are running into the street, and I am trying to keep cars from hitting them.”

Now, some people may have heard my story about *“The Turtle in the Road,”* where God spoke to me through the dilemma of a poor, helpless terrapin. (Note: God did not speak to me *through* the turtle; only through the situation. Let us be clear.) At any rate, the acorn has not fallen far from the tree, as my daughter apparently shares our family predilection for rescuing animals in danger.

Understand, it isn’t every day you get to celebrate your 25th Anniversary, and I didn’t want to delay or miss my hot date. Especially not for a possum. I don’t like possums, except with rice and brown gravy.

Of course, it wasn’t about the possum. My little girl needed her Daddy, and within minutes, I was standing next to her in the road, directing traffic and corralling four



wayward baby possums. I was also working the cell phone, calling “Animal Control” for assistance. As it turns out, “Animal Control” said that they didn’t handle “wild animals,” which was a major newflash to me.

Thank God for an understanding wife, who agreed to postpone our wonderful date until I could resolve this crisis. After all, she’s not just a great wife, but a loving Mom who felt the concerns of our daughter.

Soon, my Dad was in on the rescue as well, bringing me a much-needed box

and some high-tech possum extraction equipment (paper towels) which I put to use in gathering up the four little possum babies who were just opening their eyes and making tiny heart-rending yelps.

I soon discovered that there were four *more* baby possums who were not yet, shall we say, delivered yet. For the sake of the squeamish, I will fast-forward the story and say that I tenderly placed eight healthy newborn possums into the box for a rushed drive to an environmental study center which specializes in care for wounded or imperiled animals.

As I prepared to leave, I thanked my father and hugged my daughter. She grabbed me tight and through a teary smile said, “Well, Daddy, now you can do a message about *The Possum in the Road*.”

Love is an amazing motivator, especially the love of a parent for their child. Love is not only expressed in the spectacular—such as possum rescues—but in being

available and engaged in living life together. It is in being willing to sacrifice what is precious or enjoyable for you to be in situations that may be unpleasant or difficult—for the sake of blessing or helping the people you love.

Jesus taught us to pray to God, “our Father.” In Luke 11, Jesus said that if earthly fathers desire to do good for their children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give us

good gifts, including the precious gift of the Holy Spirit? He said in Matthew 6 that if the Heavenly Father takes care of the birds, how much more will He care for His children?

Those who have received Jesus Christ by faith now have the nature of the Father living within them. John tells us that “God is love.” He not only expresses His love to us, but also through us. And love is the greatest lesson that we can teach our children.

Love is costly. Love can be messy. Love makes you reach. Love is not convenient. Love is often not expressed on your own terms. Love will cause you to rescue possum babies on your Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Speaking of the Anniversary, within an hour of my documentary-worthy possum adventure, I was cleaned up and seated across the table from my lovely wife enjoying her company, the cuisine, and the bayside view.

And thinking, “Praise God, we don’t live near any needy polar bears.” **121**

“Love is not only expressed in the spectacular but in being available and engaged in living life together.”

the POSSUM BY STEPHEN SIMPSON in the ROAD

It was not the typical way to celebrate a Silver Wedding Anniversary

A man in a blue button-down shirt is shown from the chest up. He has a messy, eaten doughnut stuck to his chest, and he is holding another doughnut in his hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

WHAT HAS STRESS DONE FOR YOU LATELY?

How to Respond to Daily Real World Pressures

by JONATHAN SIMPSON

JIM LOOKED AGAIN AT THE ALARM clock. 5:59am. One minute left he thought. He felt as though he were watching the countdown on a bomb clock. Jim had spent the last three hours in bed, unable to sleep, while his mind cycled through a myriad of concerns. Last night's argument with his wife, the overdue bills, the reports due for the Seattle project all seemed like weights bearing down on him. BEEP... BEEP... BEEP the alarm clock sounded.

In the shower a random statistic flashed into Jim's thoughts: "heart attacks most commonly occur on Monday mornings." "Just my luck" Jim mumbled aloud, unaware he wasn't the only one in the bathroom. "What was that!?" Jim's wife snapped from somewhere over by the sink. "Nothing" said Jim.

The box of doughnuts in the kitchen had one left. By now it was stale but it was Raspberry, Jim's favorite. He filled his mug with coffee and jumped in the car. Surfing through the morning radio shows Jim took in the latest news sound bites of the economy, Ahmadinejad, an earthquake somewhere, the oil spill, and Afghanistan—where his little brother was serving. Each topic seemed to be bringing new troubling headlines. "I need some music" he thought.

Flipping through the dial, he paused as peaceful guitar strumming caught his attention. The singer began, ***“Any minute now, my ship is coming in. I’ll keep checking the horizon...”*** Jim started to sing along wondering to himself when he even learned the song. ***“...I already have a plan. I’m waiting for my real life to begin.”*** He felt a connection to the music as he pulled into the office parking lot.

Entering the office, the harsh reality hit. All of the to-do’s came flooding to Jim’s mind. His pulse quickened. While making his way down the corridor to his office, Jim’s supervisor turned the corner. “Jim, I was hoping to catch you this morning. You know I need those reports for the Seattle project.” “No, problem” Jim replied, “I’m on it.” “By the end of today, Jim.” “You got it.”

Marty from Accounting was next to greet Jim. “Jim, I still need those data sheets.” “Yeah I was going to ask you...” “Woah, dude!” Marty interrupted. “Nice Jelly blowout on the shirt!” While Jim was still looking down at the big blob of Raspberry jelly on his shirt, Marty walked passed him. “End of the day, Jim, end of the day,” Marty repeated.

Walking past the break room, the usual suspects were in the midst of their pre-workday antics. “Jimbo! Come on in man! They brought your favorite today, Raspberry Doughnuts.” “No thanks,” Jim said as he tried to keep moving forward. “Hey Jim, let me know if you need help later unpacking those bags under your eyes.” The giddy laughter echoed down the hall as Jim opened his office door and sank into his chair. “God help me,” Jim whispered.

It would be easy for us to pick Jim apart. There are several stressors and stress companions to be found in this story. I won’t take up the space to identify them all here. But we could lay out a plan for Jim that would include classes in time management, project management, nutrition, stress management, and then throw in some marital counseling and maybe some psychiatric therapy, and Jim should be shipshape right?

Chances are you know a “Jim” or might identify with some elements of his tale. Perhaps his life seems to have no stress compared with yours. Stress affects everyone differently. But make no mistake, it affects us all.

● **Workplace stress costs more than \$300 billion each year in health care, missed work and stress-reduction.** ²

Physiologically, we’ve learned that stress raises the heart rate, blood pressure, and blood sugar. That’s terrific if you’re a gladiator fighter, but for the rest of us, it tends to be a negative. Stress hates to work alone, so it typically brings some close friends over to play. These include a gang of coping methods such as denial, bad diet, escapism, procrastination, and drugs and alcohol to name a few.

Affecting stress

Stress in and of itself is not a sin. It could be caused by sin or easily accom-

Woah, dude!” Marty interrupted.
“Nice Jelly
blowout on the shirt!”



The question is, what will our response be? And will we be open to what God might be trying to do or say to us?

Stress: the overachiever

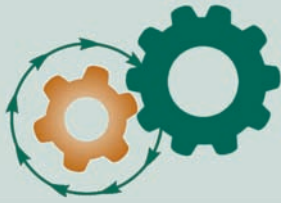
Back in 1983, the subject of stress landed on the cover of **Time** Magazine. It was called the “Epidemic of the Eighties.” So, considering our progression into instability, how have we fared with the epidemic?

Recent statistics show the following:

- **Americans feel that their stress has increased over the past five years.** ¹
- **One-third of Americans feel they are living with extreme stress.** ¹
- **About half of Americans say money and work are the leading causes of stress.** ¹
- **About half of Americans report lying awake at night due to stress.** ¹
- **Stress causes more than half of Americans to fight with people close to them.** ¹

panied by sin; but not necessarily. Jesus certainly experienced stress. In Luke 22, we see Jesus praying in the garden, knowing what was to take place, praying “in anguish”. The Scripture says “His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.”

It’s good to know that in the midst of our stress, we have an Advocate who knows stress. Most people find it hard to empathize with the struggles of others unless they’ve experienced them first-hand. In other words, we tend to have mercy toward others for what we struggle with or can understand. But thank God, Lamentations 3:22-24 tells us that “Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’”



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Jesus prayed at Gethsemane: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." Here is the perfect model of honesty and obedience to the Father's will. Notice what happened next: the Scripture says that "An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him." And so can it also be with us. God may or may not choose to remove us from the situation, but if we are honest and obedient with Him, He can strengthen us and allow the seed that we have received to fall into good soil.

Jesus told us that "in this world you will have trouble." Stress calls us to confront our limitations. It cracks our cisterns. It can redirect us to the Father if we allow it. We live with stress; it's unavoidable. But we don't have to always live under it. And, in a time where stress is affecting so many, we have an opportunity to be mindful, and reach out to people, and lighten their load.

If you find yourself under stress, consider the following verses and remember that at CSM, we are here to stand with you in prayer. Feel free to let us know.

"Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:4 NIV).

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31 NIV).

1 American Psychological Association

2 The American Institute of Stress

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enables us to run with patience (see Hebrews 12:1).

I love Hebrews 12. It gives us keys to endurance. Here are some:

- **Patience is essential to endurance.**
- **Look to Jesus who epitomizes endurance.**
- **Look to the joy ahead that awaits endurance.**
- **Consider how Jesus endured unwarranted hostility.**
- **Consider what you haven't had to do—shed blood to endure.**
- **Accept discipline as from God—it is preparation for endurance.**
- **Strengthen your hands and knees so that you can stand in the time of trouble.**
- **Keep on the straight path. Crooked roads make us vulnerable.**
- **Pursue peace and holiness. Loss of either can cost you.**
- **Avoid bitterness that defiles you and others.**
- **Don't sell out at any price.**
- **Look to where we are going—to eternal places.**

Revelation 12:11 adds other means to endurance:

- **Know what the blood of Christ purchased for you.**
- **Know your testimony—the word of God.**
- **Love not your own life, even unto death.**

All of these provisions are given for our endurance and all are gifts of God's grace. Reliance and diligence are the two attitudes that assure our survival. Galatians 6:9 promises that we will reap in due time if we do not faint. Psalm 126:5-6 also promises that if we will continue to sow, even in times of tears, we will one day reap with joy.



HONOR ENDURANCE

My pastor, Ken Sumrall, was asked how he accomplished so much, building a large church, a Bible college, a mission society, and raising so many spiritual sons. His answer was simple and direct, "I didn't quit."

God helps and blesses those who endure. I saw that again as I participated in John Duke's celebration. I felt that I, too, was reaping. In fact, we all were. When we honor what is worthy, we reap the rewards with those that we honor: the joy, the victory, and the fellowship of their achievement.

I didn't play football last year,

but my favorite team won the championship. I celebrated their victories and got a small measure of their joy. I was not John Duke, but I got a measure of his joy. I wasn't Moses, but I rejoice at His endurance. I was not Washington, but I reaped some of his rewards. And of course, we didn't have to die on a cruel cross, but, praise God, I enjoy the benefits now and forever!

Because of this, I have been inspired to keep on, to endure whatever cross I face, and receive a crown that does not fade away. This word will meet you wherever you are. In sobriety? Make another day. In a pastorate? Make another year. In a business? Find a way. In a marriage? Fight for it. Got kids? Don't give up on them. Fighting a physical battle? Keep fighting in faith. Feeling weak? Seek the God of all power.

You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (see Philippians 4:13). Humble yourself before God, cry out to Him, and He will lift you up and plant your feet on the Rock. We have a lot to do and must know that it is Christ in us, the hope of Glory (see Colossians 1:27). Be rooted in Him (see Colossians 2:6-7). Let His word dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another, keep raising spiritual sons (see Colossians 3:16).

Celebrate endurance, both in those that endure, and in your own life. Use the tools and show others how. Be a model. And when reaping time comes, be sure to give the Lord all the glory! **121**

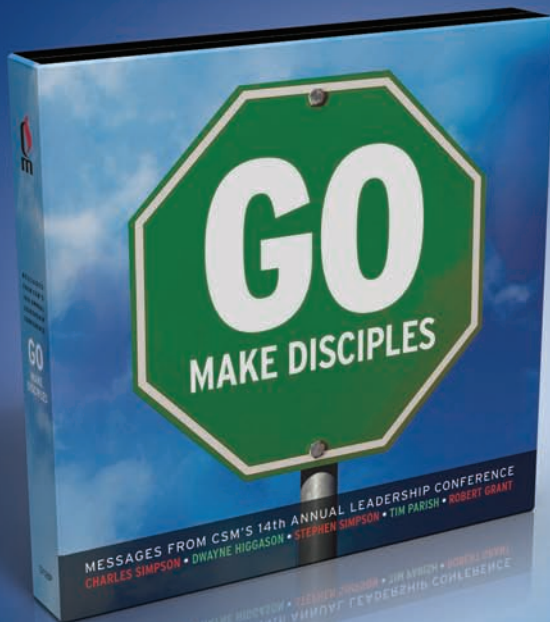
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