



Endurance

What comes to mind when you hear the word endurance?

For our group, many ideas were thrown out. We quickly brought up athletic feats that required endurance such as swimming, cycling, or running great distances. This speaks to me personally from past experience with triathlon training. Other ideas and synonymous terms were thrown out regarding strength, and the ability to persist. Another idea that comes to mind for me personally is my history in the marine core through recruit training and enduring all that that involved. What also comes to mind is the enduring grace of my wife. Her unfailing love.

If you type “endurance” into a google search bar, you can probably get an extension on your car warranty.

Endurance is defined as:

- *A noun* – “the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way.”
- *An adjective* – “denoting or relating to a race or other sporting event that takes place over a long distance or otherwise demands great physical stamina”

Romans 5:4 tells us “and endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation”

If we each sat and told our story, our personal history that is, endurance would be a common and overlapping theme. When the summary of all the earthly challenges we face are judged, be they health, financial, professional, or relational, when those challenges are judged by earthly standards, they’re either tagged as a victory or a loss but they offer us so much more. The previous verse **Romans 5:3** tells us “we can rejoice too when we run into problems or trials. For we know that they help us develop endurance”

While the idea of rejoicing when facing a challenging situation is contrary to human thinking, it is exactly what must happen to grow the kingdom of God.

The trials and tribulations we face hone our spirit and our character for greater things. God allows us to struggle in order for us to grow and prepare us for what he has in store.

You may have heard it said that “God doesn’t call the qualified, he qualifies the called.”

If you’re facing challenges and struggles right now, rejoice in knowing that God is preparing you for something greater.

Maybe you or someone you love is experiencing health issues? -- God could be qualifying you to make healthier choices.

Maybe you are experiencing financial issues? -- God could be qualifying you to understand how to use money more wisely.

Or maybe you are being challenged professionally? -- God could be qualifying you for a new, more challenging role.

Whatever challenges you face, look through the problem and see Jesus standing behind it, then walk through it to Him. You will get through it, and what will remain will be the endurance.