

Endure

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”

Matthew 24:13

Job said, "Man, born of woman, lives but a few days, and they are full of trouble." (Job 14:1). James said in James 1:2, "...count it all joy when you fall into various trials and temptations." He didn't say "if you fall into..." but he said "WHEN..." Throughout the Bible, God makes it very clear that, in life, we are going to have challenges or troubles...whether you are saved or not. Certain things just come with being a human being born into a world under the influence of sin. Yes. Troubles are a part of life; and, if we know that troubles are going to come, the most important thing is to figure out how to deal with them when they do.

In speaking with his disciples about how things would be before his return, Christ gave them (and us) the key to surviving the tough times of life so they (and we) could obtain God's promise. The "key" word is "endure". You just have to learn to endure...until the Lord says it's over and brings you out.

In Matthew 24:13, the word "endure" comes from a Greek word that means to *remain behind, stand your ground, bear up against or persevere*. Christ is letting us know that when the troubles of life come, we have to buckle down and hold on (to God) and persevere through it. This is the only way that you will be able to receive the promise of God...including salvation. When challenges come and things get hard, don't be afraid, don't turn back, don't compromise and don't quit. You have got to keep your heart and mind anchored in the hope of God's promises. You have got to trust that what God has promised, He will deliver.

Most of us are familiar with storms...whether the storm is a thunderstorm, hurricane, tornado or blizzard. Even though they are different, they all share similar traits: you never know how long they will last but we do know they don't last always. Our God is a shelter in the time of the storm. If we remain in Him, trust Him and wait on Him, eventually the storm will pass and He will bring us through it. If trials and troubles of life (loss, discouragement, crisis) have come upon you, remember, when the going gets tough, the tough go to God. Rely on His power and stand strong in the Lord in the midst of what you are going through. If you endure, God will bring you out.