

True Fellowship Holiness Church

Bible Study

Topic: Steadfastness

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Steadfastness

In James 1:2, we are told to “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” Now, in verse 12, we are reminded that steadfast people inherit the crown of life on the other side of tribulation, and in this way the testing of trials are a bridge to our eternal reward. This is why we can “count it all joy.”

Twin Evidences: Steadfastness Under Trail and Love for God

There are two, seemingly distinct evidences of salvation, put together in this verse. First it says that after someone has stood the test of trials in this life and remained steadfast, then they will receive the crown of life. One evidence of eternal salvation is steadfast perseverance. Second, it says that the crown of life is promised to those who love God. Another evidence is love for God. How do these two evidences of grace conspire together?

The crown of life is not given to those who receive the gospel “with joy” and “endure for a while” but “when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away” (Matthew 13:21). People who turn away from God under trial show that they treasure a trial-free existence more than they treasure God.

God's people do not treasure a thornless life. Their chief aim is not to have a tribulation-free existence. Their chief aim is to see Christ glorified and to be satisfied in the sight of his glory, and this is why they can remain steadfast under trial.

In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 a trial came to Paul in the form of a thorn in the flesh, and Paul pleaded with God to take it away. God chose to let Paul remain with the thorn in the flesh. Did Paul then forsake God, saying, "What good is it to follow you if I don't achieve what I really want through you?" No. Rather, he began to see his trial as something to boast in, because he saw that Christ was being glorified in his weakness. This is where steadfastness under trial comes together with love for God. Paul's treasure was not a thornless existence, it was Jesus glorified. He loved God, more than anything.

Our Responsibility to Christ

Christ says: "no man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" ([Luke 9: 62](#)). In view of all that Christ has done for us, we are deeply obligated to "put our hand to the plow" and steadfastly follow him.

Paul's words of reminder therefore are always timely: "wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him... he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" ([2 Cor. 5: 19, 15](#)). The apostle further writes "as ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built-up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with Thanksgiving"

Steadfastness in Faith

Each one of us must steadfastly maintain and nurture his faith in the Lord. Paul's admonition to Timothy is thus still just as appropriate today: "holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck" ([1 Timothy 1: 19](#)).

Again we are exhorted: "take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" ([Hebrews 3: 12, 13](#)). Therefore, "let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)" ([Hebrews 10: 23](#)).

Steadfastness in Worship

From the very beginning of Christianity, the disciples on the first in the week regularly "came together to break" (Acts 20:7). In their weekly assemblies "they contended steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and breaking a bread, and prayers" (Acts 2: 42).

This communal worship is vital to our spiritual growth and well-being. Hence we are urged: "and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another..." (Hebrews 10: 24, 25).

Nothing is more important to Christian growth than faithfully studying the Word of God. Hence Peter instructs: "wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2: 1,2). Remember, too, Jesus words: "if ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8: 31, 32).

On the other hand, neglecting the word leads to ruinous consequences. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the Word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" (Hebrews 2: 1-3).

Steadfastness in Doing Good

Scripture informs us that Jesus "went about doing good" (Acts 10: 38). If we are truly his disciples we will steadfastly follow his example. Inasmuch as we can accomplish nothing without the Lord's help, Paul's prayer for the Colossians also addresses our need today. He petitions: "that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1: 10).

Since good works are essential to pleasing the Lord, Paul also exhorts: "therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58). Again he writes: "and let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6: 9).

Steadfastness Leads to Hope

Success in the Christian life demands a steadfast hope in Christ. We must not allow ourselves to be "moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1: 23). And we desire," says the writer of Hebrews, "that everyone of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6: 11, 12).

Reward for Steadfastness

The rewards for steadfastness are incalculable. Jesus, for instance, promises that "he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24: 13). We are further assured that God "will render to everyman according to his deeds: to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and immortality, eternal life" (Romans 2: 6,7).

Summary Truths

Scripture constantly emphasizes the necessity for steadfastness in all areas of the Christian life. "Ye therefore, beloved; seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3: 17, 18).