

### **Seed of Hope and Endurance**

*At this time do you need courage like you have never needed it before? Is facing tomorrow fearful or uncertain for you because you don't know what you are going to do or how you are going to make it through? Having the endurance of faith, actively exemplified by our teacher Paul in scripture, enables us to proclaim his testimony to this world:*

"I can do all things, **through** Christ who strengthens me." Php 4:13

*There may come a time during our life when we have to experience physical suffering because of disease or become debilitated due to a stroke or an accident. How many parents have children ill from birth or lose a child before they reach adulthood? Challenges such as these are innumerable and can happen to anyone.*

*Paul knew very well how trials sow the seed of hope and endurance throughout our walk. Trials teach us what nothing else ever can and that is to place ourselves at the mercy of the Father and His beloved Son to see us through difficult times. Tribulations build confidence in our expectation of what God has promised. Let us then place our trust in His faithfulness.*

Deut 7:9

9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

1Peter1:6-9

6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.

*Most of us remember the simple game of musical chairs often played at a child's party. The kids walk around a circle of chairs while music is played. The music stops and the kids scramble to sit on a chair but there is one less chair than the number of children. One child is suddenly standing alone and is then taken out of the game. Another chair is then taken away, the music begins and the kids continue walking around the chairs until the music stops again. In silence everyone is sitting on a chair except for the one "chairless" and perchance this time that child is you!*

*I use the old childhood game of "musical chairs" as an example to show how certain kinds of trials can take us "out of the game" for a time. We may feel distanced from those around us whose lives are going on seemingly immune, unaffected by painful disruptions. Until we walk in someone's shoes, we will never know what another is going*

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*through. We can imagine or speculate but we don't know what a person endures until we experience it for ourselves. If or when we find ourselves in a place of painful isolation, the only genuine solace is obtained through applied quiet endurance as we live through days, weeks, months, years or for some, a lifetime of suffering.*

Heb 2:10

10 ¶ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Heb 12:1-3

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

*The music stopped for Yahshua that night the death angel struck, scattering the sheep yet He sat securely on the ultimate, invisible chair of safety, His Father's Holy Spirit. Judas led the authorities to where He was in the garden. He was betrayed, taken into custody and began His final mission, a trial beyond our human comprehension.*

John 16:32

32 "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

*After eating His last meal with His disciples on the evening of Passover, Yahshua offered a prayer to the Father to strengthen His flock and prepare all believers for upcoming trials that they would endure throughout their lives until His return.*

John 17: 20-21

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

*Yahshua prayed that the Father empower true believers past, present and future during their life-walk as He was empowered during His walk as a human being. He relied solely on the Father's Holy Spirit and true believers are urged to depend on that same power.*

Rom 5:5

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

*Yahshua gave up His seat on the heavenly throne to become the perfect free-will offering necessary that paid the penalty for sin. Death! Christ being totally innocent, was willing*

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*to take our place and endured an excruciating death on the stake of shame, making redemption possible for all humanity. Without His perfect sacrifice, no one would be in a position to gain the promises of His excellent ministry forging the new covenant with the house of Israel.*

### Heb 8:10-13

10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

### Heb 9:15

15 ¶ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

*Through the power of His Holy Spirit, the Father resurrected His beloved Son from death to eternal life. There has never been a more miraculous victory in all of history. Our Lord's perfect love could not be contained in the grave nor could the Father's power and truth be buried and forgotten.*

### Rom 5:10-11

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

*Through Christ's offering, once for all, limitations and doubt have been moved out of our way. Through our relationship with Yahshua, He has the power to lift our anxieties and remove every handicap. Be of good cheer! Through His triumph over sin and death we share in the strength of His victory*

### John 16:33

33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

*Humanly speaking, no one ever wants to suffer but I do know that if I am led into a hardship by my Creator, He will give me the endurance to live it. Our suffering is temporary just as this physical life is not permanent. In our present life nothing can*

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*separate us from the Father or His Son as they cheer us over the finish line. Rely on His Holy Spirit within to comfort and strengthen us, as we hope in the inheritance of eternal life with the Father and Son when there will be no more suffering. Let us make our lives an offering as many who have gone before us.*

### Rom 8:11

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*Yahshua's victory over sin and death rendered the adversary (Satan) powerless against us. Through Him we are empowered to overcome any situation just as He did. It's not with Him or beside Him but THROUGH Him that we share in His victory. His love for us has been proven true through His life, death, and resurrection. He put the needs of humanity before His own and sacrificed His life so that we may have the opportunity to obtain everlasting life with Him and the Father.*

*He offers us help in our times of need. We will go through many problems in this brief life but we have peace through Yahshua and the hope that we will be raised to glorify the Father for all eternity as He has already done. Remember Yahshua's prayer: "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

### Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Sometimes we just need to hear the words:*

*"YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE IT!"*

*Choose to face this day and all the tomorrows to come through Yahshua and endure this race to the end as He did.*

*Selah!*

Proverb to Ponder

### Prov 2:7-8

7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;

8 He guards the paths of justice and preserves the way of His saints.

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Scriptures NKJV unless otherwise noted\*

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