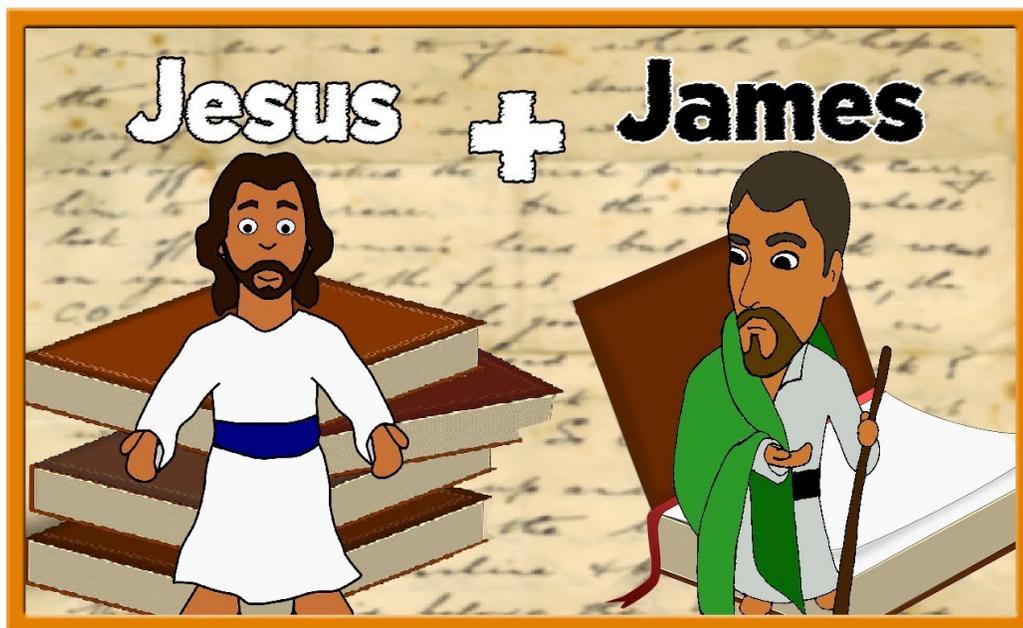


The Light - Junior Series

Lesson 137

Practical Sanctification: Jesus, James & Paul Teach Us Endurance through Suffering



Paul



2020

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

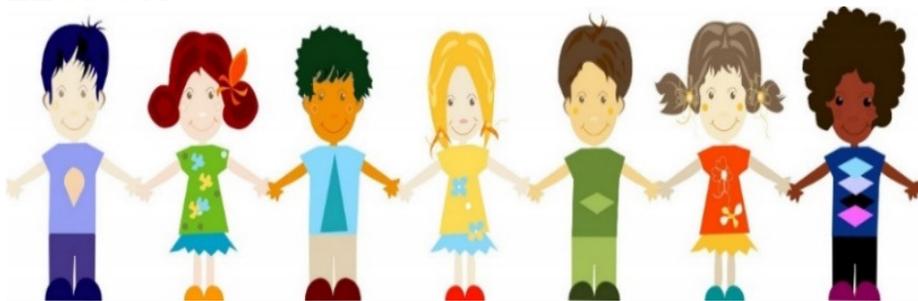
Jesus Christ, God's Son, loves us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to go to the cross, take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior, died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again from the dead and He is alive today seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. Believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ and you will be saved and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



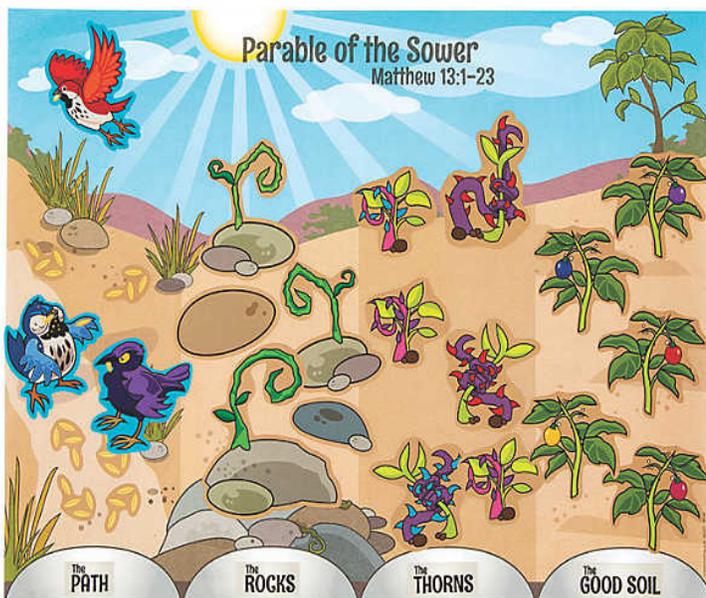
LESSON



Hi kids, we've been studying about suffering and the problems we have in our Christian lives, which is part of our practical sanctification. We'll continue learning

more about this subject today from Jesus, James and Paul.

Let's start our lesson today with the powerful Word of God, which has to do with our subject of suffering and troubles. There's nothing like the Word to start our day off right! **1 Peter 5:6-11** "Therefore, humble yourselves under the **mighty hand of God**, that He may promote you at the proper time, (7) **slamming all your worry on Him**, because **He cares for you**. (8) Be serious in spirit, be on the alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to overwhelm. (9) But **resist him, firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. (10) **After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you**. (11) To Him be authority forever and ever. Amen." Look what the last sentence in this passage is saying to you because it is POWERFUL: "**after you have suffered for a little while, our Father and God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.**" This is wonderful news, right?



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Next, we will be taught by Jesus, James, and Paul directly about the subject of endurance, strength, tirelessness and being able to get through our suffering and troubles.

Jesus speaks about it this way in the seed parable in [Luke 8:15](#). "But the seed (the gospel good news) in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard **the word** (of the Gospel and believe in Jesus) in an **honest and good heart**, and **hold it fast (believe)**, and **bear fruit (serve Jesus) with endurance (tirelessness).**"

Let's show here at this point what the fruit of the Spirit is, according to Paul in the book of Gal 5:22-23. "But the **fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law."

Look carefully at the first three as we move through this short teaching on endurance or strength and perseverance or tirelessness. The first three are **love, joy, and peace**.

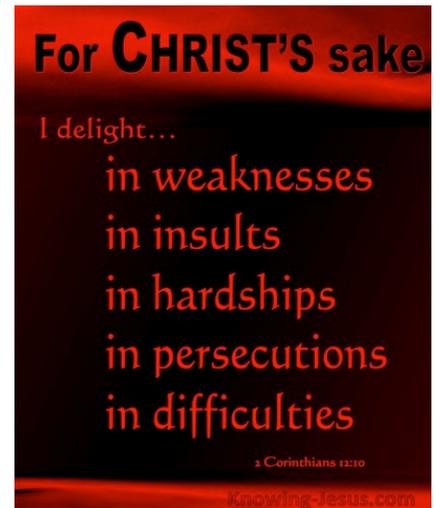
It seems that endurance, perseverance or tirelessness is a key part in producing the result Jesus wants from us and **that is fruit**. In other words, it is what gets you through the trouble or gets you the results Jesus wants from us. **The results come from us letting the Holy Spirit power us up to produce the fruit.**



Let's go into the classroom where James teaches, to see his way of describing this in [James 1:2-4](#).

"Consider it all **joy**, my brethren, **when you face various trials (sufferings or troubles)**, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (or strength). (4) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect (mature) and complete, lacking in nothing."

Notice that here, as with the Lord, endurance produces a result. In this case, he describes it as being mature and complete, lacking in nothing. It's all from God. You all know too, that it is the Lord who produces this result in us, because it is the Lord who gives us the endurance or strength that is necessary to get through it. It makes us like Jesus or Christ-like.



Crown of Life

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

(Rev. 2:10)



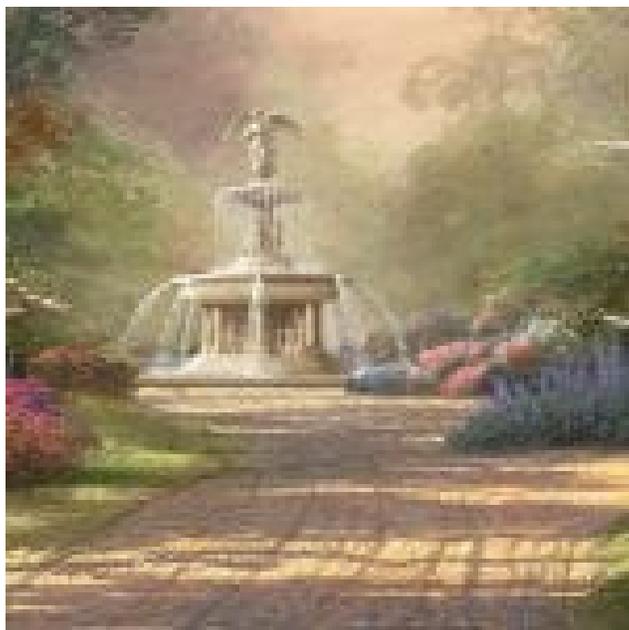
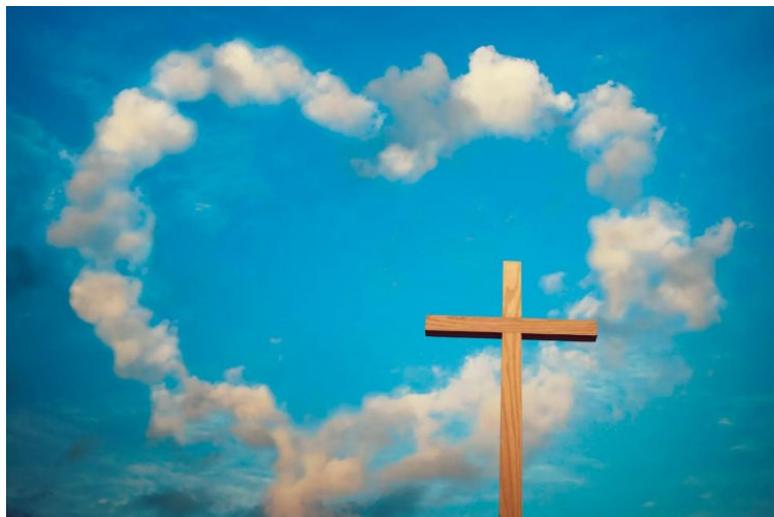
Notice what James is saying here in the picture box. If we get through the trial or trouble, we are approved by God. God is saying here that we have been matured by our getting through the trouble and have produced fruit as we are supposed to. We relied on God, not on ourselves! On top of that God is approving us and He will reward us, too!!! WOW!

Here's another Bible passage in [James 5:10-11](#) about believers' suffering and endurance. "As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (11) We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that **the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.**"

And the end result IS GLORIOUS! Glory simply means the demonstration of who God is, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful. Notice also the very important and central role that the word of God has in endurance.

Paul teaches us much about the role of endurance in his letter to the Romans. Let's begin in Rom 5:1-5.

"Therefore, having been **justified (made perfect in God's eyes) by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this **grace** in which we stand; and we rejoice in **hope of the glory of God**. (3) And not only this, but we also rejoice in our troubles, knowing that **troubles brings about endurance**; (4) and endurance, **proven character**; and proven character, **hope (confidence)**; (5) and hope does not disappoint, because the **love of God** has been poured out within our hearts through the **Holy Spirit** who was given to us (and lives inside our bodies!)."



Here think of grace as the fountain of blessing that God freely showers upon us every day. Keep an eye out for all the things God gives us that we don't have to provide for ourselves, beginning with the love of God.

We see in the above passage that we have our entire life as born-again Christians. It began when we believed in Jesus and were justified by God the father which means we are **declared righteous or perfect in His eyes**. We were reconciled to God forever and, therefore,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

From that moment on, we have been standing in the grace of God, where we remain until our physical death or the rapture, when we will be brought into the glory of God and face to face with Jesus. Paul explains this more Rom 8:22-30. "For we know that the whole creation (planet earth) groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (23) And not only this, but also, we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons (at the Rapture)**, the redemption of our body (**when we receive our perfect resurrection bodies**). (24) For in hope we have been saved,

but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? (25) **But if we hope for what we do not see (being with Jesus in heaven), with endurance (especially in troubles) we wait eagerly for it.**"



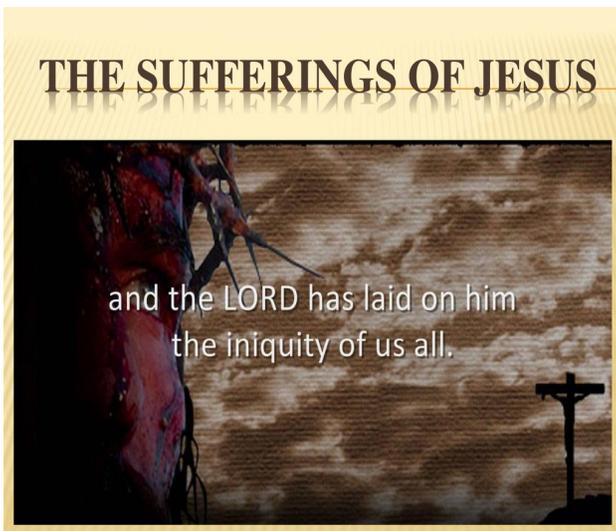
Our Victory is in Jesus Christ: (26) In the same way **the Spirit also helps our weakness**; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself pleads for us with groanings too deep for words; (27) and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He pleads for the saints (all believers) according

to the will of God. (28) And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son (to be just like Jesus)**, so that He (Jesus) would be the firstborn among many brethren; (30) and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified (made perfect); and **these whom He justified, He also glorified (our resurrection bodies we receive at the Rapture).**

And Paul finishes up on his study on perseverance/endurance in Rom 15:1-13: "Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. (2) Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his instruction. (3) For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'THE CRITICISMS OF THOSE WHO CRITICIZE YOU FELL ON ME.' (4) For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that **through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (confidence).** (5) Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, (6) so that with agreement you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (7) Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the

glory of God. (8) For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision (the Jews) on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises given to the fathers (Old Testament patriarchs), (9) and for the Gentiles (those people who are not Jews) to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, 'THEREFORE I WILL GIVE PRAISE TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND I WILL SING TO YOUR NAME.' (10) Again, he says, 'REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE.' (11) And again, 'PRAISE THE LORD ALL YOU GENTILES, AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.' (12) Again, Isaiah says, 'THERE SHALL COME THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE WHO ARISES TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.' (13) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Notice that **it is God who gives us endurance, perseverance and encouragement along the way.**

Kids, do you know why we have to have some suffering in this life?



Well first of all, Jesus suffered more than any other human being. We'll never suffer like He did. His suffering was the worse suffering of any other person in all of time. And guess what? It was NOT His physical suffering that was the worst...oh it was terrible and very painful. It was the terrible suffering He experienced on the cross while all the sins were pouring through His body and caused His complete separation from the holiness of the Father and the Holy Spirit. That was His most

terrible suffering...horrible.

He NEVER knew sin and He was made to suffer sin on our behalf!!!! This kind of suffering is the ultimate suffering and only ONE person suffered in this way and it was our SAVIOR and LORD, JESUS!!! For YOU and ME! This was the greatest sacrifice of all time.



Now for the answer to the question as to why we have to have some suffering: because when believers suffer with endurance, it GLORIFIES God. God gets the praise and glory by our suffering especially when we endure through it while He and He alone helps us.

Let's face it, if Jesus suffered, we will suffer, too in this life. Ours will NEVER be as awful as Jesus' suffering...NEVER! So, if you are having troubles and suffering for any reason, give it to God who will give you endurance to bring you through the trouble and at the same time God gets the glory and praise for helping us.

You know, this endurance that God gives us through our suffering or troubles, leads to proven character and hope, just as Paul described it before in [Romans chapter 5](#).

Proven character in [Romans chapter 15](#) is found when we behave like Jesus and show the fruit of the Spirit from [Gal 5:22-23](#). This is shown in our pleasing our neighbor (those around us) for his spiritual education, and our accepting one another (they will see our Christ-likeness). In other words, loving one another as Jesus has loved us...living like Jesus lived. **The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

Suffering is a difficult subject to learn about as Christians but don't be afraid or lose heart, because you know from God's WORD that we thrive in hope (confidence), that God will deliver us through the suffering as we receive the love of God in our hearts, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Until next time, stay in God's Word...

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 8-14-2016
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