

ENDURANCE

“Keep on keeping on”

The ABILITY to **keep on doing** something that is good, and right, is a very important action in the lives of God’s people.

LONGEVITY OF ACTION should be THE GOAL, but it is longevity **accompanied with personal fulfilment and satisfaction.**

There must be a **purpose** a reason why we are to continue on.

***Galatians 6:9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. NIV*

Also, it is those hard and difficult times that God works in us those things which please him

***James 1:2-4** Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy*

Perseverance (patience) must be allowed to complete is designed work in us.

James 1:2-4

*2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 **Perseverance must finish its work** so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. NIV*

PRACTICAL THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP OUR RESOLVE to keep on keeping on.

***Hebrews 12:3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. NIV*

***Hebrews 12:3** Think of him who endured such opposition against himself by sinners, so that you may not grow weary in your souls and give up. NET*

We will need:

1. To **APPLY** certain things to our lives so that our heart, mind and emotions are positively affected.
2. To **THINK** on the needy and the condition of the lost more often.
3. To **REFLECT** on HOW Jesus was affected (emotionally) and responded when faced with seeing suffering, sickness and pain.
4. To **INWARDLY** DESIRE to be LIKE HIM in how HE responded.
5. To EXPOSE ourselves through **READING** and **reflective PRAYER** which is focused on the needs of mankind.
6. To physically **EXPOSE** ourselves to the needy and suffering by VISITING them or ENGAGING them through acts of kindness, love and generosity.

Great acts of Love are done by those who are habitually performing small acts of kindness.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted

7. BY DOING these things it will **DEVELOP** COMPASSION within us, that will PROPEL us **TOWARDS** doing something for those kinds of people.

What are the benefits of keeping on?

- We learn and become better informed about some things we could not otherwise know.
- We experience new light that we learn important lessons
- We are being aligned, adjusted more to God's ways

Why is it important for us to keep on keeping on?

- Something else will take its place. Something else will seek to rule and take over and direct our behaviour and actions
- Such things as disappointment, or a feeling of not progressing, or little personal growth, a slackening off fever and spiritual vitality.

What can we EXPECT to experience when we are endeavouring to keep on keeping on?

- To be tested and tried.
- To be tempted and enticed, drawn away from those things that we are engaged in for God
- To start thinking and feeling that we have been doing this for a long time and there is little fruit and minimal progress and it's time for someone else to take over. Simply we have lost our energy to continue.

What are the HINDRANCES to us in seeking to 'keeping on'?

- Those things that seek to **sap** our energy and courage to continue.
- Those things will **deprive** us of **our time to do** what we are supposed to do, simply because we are caught up with TOO many "other" things.
- The favourite scheme of the Devil is to keep us **occupied** and **busy** with unimportant things, things that don't really matter for the kingdom.

How To MAINTAIN A PASSION towards helping people in need?

- COMPASSION IS NEEDED. Not just passion BUT compassion.
- Maintaining compassion in our life is essential.
- Doing those practical things the will ensure that compassion is always in our hearts.

Example: The good Samaritan recorded in Luke when he saw the wounded and dying man was **MOVED** with **COMPASSION** and **WENT** to him.

Luke 10:33-34

*33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when **he saw him, he had compassion on him,** 34 **And went to him,** and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. KJV*

A testimony: What I learned was that if I wanted to keep on GOING TO the wounded and needy, I would need to maintain COMPASSION in my life

- Compassion is what **motivates** us TOWARDS people in need
- Compassion **prevents** us from PASSING BY on the other side (i.e. not getting involved).
- We need to **DELIBERATELY BE EXPOSING** ourselves to the needy, the wounded and the suffering, which sometimes means interrupting our busy schedule to do so.
- This may be challenging even unsettling, but it is good for developing compassion in us.

A lesson learned. If we want to always be **GOING TO** people in need rather than just **passing them by**, we will need to maintain COMPASSION in our lives.

NEVER GIVE UP

***Galatians 6:9** So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. NLT*

***2 Corinthians 4:16** That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. NLT*

***Ephesians 3:13** So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored. NLT*