

## ENDURANCE

All of the writers of the New Testament epistles gave us words of encouragement so that we would be strong in faith and endure unto the end in spite of persecution. However, we do not seem to be going through the same persecution that the Christians had to endure in the first century. We still need words of encouragement to endure and overcome the world. Jesus mentioned that the love of many would grow cold because of the popularity of sin (**Matthew 24:12**). Then, in the next verse, Jesus promised His disciples, *"But he that endures to the end will be saved."* Luke's account puts this statement in the form of a command: *"In your patience (endurance) you make sure that your souls are won."* (**Luke 21:19**).

Satan will always try to discourage us to fall from the faith, with it be by persecution, pleasures, possessions, or peer pressure. Therefore, we will need to build up our endurance for our spiritual survival.

In order to acquire endurance, we must do more than pray for it. There are no magic formulas, no shortcuts, and no easy ways to build up our endurance. If we pray for endurance (often translated *"patience"*), then we should expect God to answer that prayer with the things that He said produces it...tribulations, troubles, problems in life (**Romans 5:3, James 1:3**).

It will do us no good to avoid seeking patience in order to avoid tribulation. Satan would be very pleased with us compromising as Peter did when denied the Lord three times to avoid the same treatment that Jesus was receiving. Satan would rather use distraction and deception to move us away from God. He only resorts to persecution when we remain faithful.