

THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

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“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”

- Helen Keller

How to work through these radio talks

Purpose of these radio talks

Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.

Sources and Full acknowledgement:

Primary sources

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

Secondary

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

17. ENDURANCE vs Discouragement

Endurance is experiencing the power of God’s love by rejoicing in trials and tribulations.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Uithouvermoë vs. ontmoedig	Die innerlike vermoë om my beste te gee ten spyte van moeilike omstandighede	

Definition

Endurance is associated with the physical stamina required for a race. However, the character quality of endurance is much deeper than physical stamina. To endure is to tenaciously hold on until a goal is accomplished. Jacob clung to the angel and declared, “I will not let you go until you bless me!” God not only blessed him but affirmed, “Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:28).

What Are We to Endure?

The following passages explain the types of trials we are to endure.

- 1. Endure hardness**—“As a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (II Timothy 2:3).
- 2. Endure persecutions**—“That ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer” (II Thessalonians 1:5).
- 3. Endure tribulations**—“Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God” (II Thessalonians 1:5).
- 4. Endure grief**—“For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully” (I Peter 2:19).
- 5. Endure temptations**—So you can “receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

How Do We Endure?

Endurance is based on hope. A runner will endure rigorous and painful training for the hope that he will win the race.

- Elijah stood against the evil of his day and was hunted down, but he was faithful to the end.

(See I Kings 19.)

- Daniel maintained Godly standards during the reign of four kings. He was tested when others attempted to take his life, but he endured to the end. (See Daniel 1:20–21.)

1. Running out of strength before reaching the goal.

2. Reaching the finish line with energy left over.

As a seed must die before bearing fruit, so God brings “death of a vision” to test our endurance and then rewards us with supernatural fulfillment. *“And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” —Galatians 6:9* *Laat ons dan nie moeg word om goed te doen nie, want as ons nie verslap nie, sal ons ook op die bestemde tyd die oes insamel*

How Does Truth Motivate Endurance?

Truth sets us free from the destructive attitudes and influences that diminish endurance.

When trials and temptations come, we are to meet and endure them with the following four responses:

1. Thank God for each trial.

We can be thankful for all things, because all things come from the hand of God. They are for our benefit and can teach us character. They also “work together for good to them that love God.”

Job endured a great affliction, and he understood this point: “The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).

2. Rejoice in all things.

Once we recognize the benefits that God intends through our trials, we can rejoice in them. If we lack wisdom to discern these benefits, we can simply ask God for it and He will give it to us.

3. Cry out when necessary.

Some situations should not be endured, and God will bring relief when we cry out to Him.

“Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15). Roep my aan in die dag van benoudheid en Ek sal jou uithelp en jy sal my eer

4. Overcome by doing good.

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21). Moet jou nie deur die kwaad laat oorwin nie, maar oorwin die kwaad deur die goeie

How strong is your endurance?

- Do you live as a soldier who is in the most critical spiritual war ever waged, or as a civilian in a time of peace, prosperity, and pleasure?
- Do you rejoice when rejected by those who do not follow the ways of God, or do you complain that you have to suffer for the beliefs and standards of true discipleship?
- Do you rejoice in being falsely accused and blamed for things you did not do, or do you become reactionary, defensive, and bitter toward those who question your integrity?
- Do you accept God’s chastening for things you have done wrong, or do you become discouraged and want to give up on the Christian life?
- Do you resist temptation and bring every thought into captivity, or do you easily surrender to the lusts of the flesh and the lusts of the mind?
- Do you look forward to trials and persecutions so you can experience more of the power of Christ’s love, or do you have a fear of man and suffering?

18. ENTHUSIASM vs Apathy

Enthusiasm is God's energy in my spirit expressing itself through my mind, will, and emotions.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Entoesiasme vs. apatie	Om met innerlike en uiterlike vreugde elke taak aan te pak.	Ongevoelig, onbelangstellend

Definition

The word *enthusiasm* is derived from two Greek words, *en* meaning “in” and *theos*, which means “God.” To be enthusiastic is to be energized and inspired by God. A Biblical counterpart to this word is *fervent* from the Greek word *zeo* meaning “to boil with heat, be hot.”

Another Biblical term for enthusiasm is *zeal*, which comes from the Greek word *zelos* meaning “excitement of mind, ardor, fervor of spirit.” *Zelos* is ardor in pursuing, embracing, or defending someone or something. A Biblical expression for enthusiasm is to “leap for joy,” and is expressed by the Greek word *skirtao*, meaning “to jump, to leap.”

Commands to Be Enthusiastic

Every believer is instructed to be enthusiastic in the basic matters of Christian living. “Let love be without dissimulation. . . “But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing” (Galatians 4:18). Om jou vir 'n goeie saak te beywer is goed

Maintaining enthusiasm requires continuous fellowship with the Word of God and the Spirit of God. “*Quench not the Spirit.*” —*1 Thessalonians 5:19*

The flame of a candle is like enthusiasm in our souls—self-consuming. The flame of an oil lamp is like enthusiasm in our spirits—continuous when properly filled.

“*Be filled with the Spirit,*” and “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.*” —*Ephesians 5:18* and *Colossians 3:16*

- **Be enthusiastic about loving others.** “Above all things have **fervent** charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8).

Fervent love is possible only if we first purify our souls by obeying God’s truth.

- **Be enthusiastic about prayer.**

“The effectual **fervent** prayer of a righteous man availeth much [makes much power available]” (James 5:16).

- **Be enthusiastic about good works.**

All believers are to be enthusiastic about doing sacrificial works that will benefit others. These works must be done without any motive of personal reward or glory. They should be carried out so that others get the credit and God gets the glory. Jesus Christ “gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous** of good works” (Titus 2:14).

- **Be enthusiastic about repentance.**

The same zeal we are to have in serving God and others, we are to have in maintaining a good conscience toward God and man. “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. . . . As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be **zealous** therefore, and repent” (Revelation 3:15–16, 19).

- **Be enthusiastic about trials and reproaches.**

Jesus taught us to “rejoice, and be **exceedingly glad**” when we are persecuted for Christ’s sake.

(See Matthew 5:12.)

How Do We Generate Enthusiasm?

Genuine enthusiasm is not something we activate by our own energy. Harmonious interaction with the Holy Spirit of God produces enthusiasm. For this reason, we are to “quench not the Spirit,” nor grieve Him with things in our lives that displease Him (1 Thessalonians 5:19; see also Ephesians 4:30).

It is important to distinguish the enthusiasm of our spirits from the excitement of our souls. Those who try to stir up enthusiasm in their minds, wills, or emotions will eventually experience depression and burnout.

Enthusiasm in the soul is like a candle. It gives light, but it is self-consuming. On the other hand, enthusiasm generated in the spirit is like the flame of an oil lamp. As long as we are filled by the Spirit of God and the Word of God, enthusiasm, like an oil-filled lamp, will burn indefinitely.

- Paul was a champion of enthusiasm. His fervency and zeal for the Lord caused him to pour out his life for believers on the altar of sacrifice. (See Philippians 2:17.)

How enthusiastic are you?

- Do you give energy to all those around you by being enthusiastic?
- Have you experienced the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through salvation in Christ?
- As a believer, have you asked your Heavenly Father to fill your life with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you experience emotional drain or depression by trying to act enthusiastic with your emotions rather than through God's Spirit?
- Do you fill the "lamp" of your spirit with daily fellowship with God through His Spirit and His Word?
- Do you give everyone a warm, enthusiastic smile, or only those who are your close friends?
- Do you get more excited about sports than the challenge of the Christian life?
- Do you read novels more fervently than you study the Scriptures?