

(Romans 1:17 NLT) "This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. **This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.** As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

(Romans 15:4 NIV) "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the **endurance** taught in the Scriptures and the **encouragement** they provide we might have hope."

Endurance = the ability or strength to continue or last, especially despite fatigue, stress, or other adverse conditions; stamina.

Things that make it hard to endure:

- ✓ **Grief.**
- ✓ **Hardship.**
- ✓ **Sickness.**
- ✓ **Difficult Relationships.**

When we come to the end of ourselves, we still have access to the fullness of God!

(Romans 15:29 NIV) "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ."

How do we endure?

1. We stay **ambitious** about the Gospel.

(Romans 15:17-21 NIV) "Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation."

2. We pray first.

(Romans 15:13 NLT) "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."

*(Romans 15:30-33 NIV) "I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to **join me in my struggle by praying** to God for me. Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen."*

3. We fight for unity.

(Romans 16:17-19 NLT) "And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong."

*(Romans 15:7 NLT) "May God, who gives this patience (endurance) and encouragement, help you live in **complete harmony** with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory."*

4. We win.

*(Romans 16:20 NLT) "The God of peace **will soon crush Satan** under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."*

(Romans 16:25-27 NLT) "Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen."