

Fortitude

3 February 2008

(Hebrews 10:35) Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

(Hebrews 10:36) For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

What is Fortitude?

Fortitude is the “strength of mind that enables a person to encounter danger or bear pain or adversity with courage.”

Basically is to face problems with courage.

You can have **focus, faith** and **confidence** ... but if you do not have **fortitude**, you will still not complete the faith journey you have.

(2 Corinthians 6:4) In everything we do we try to show that we are true ministers of God. We patiently endure troubles and hardships and calamities of every kind.

(2 Timothy 3:10) But you know what I teach, Timothy, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith and how long I have suffered. You know my love and my patient endurance.

God uses people who never give up. So you want to be known as a true minister of God.

“Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.” – Winston Churchill

“My dear Senator, I am not called to be success, I am called to be faithful.” – Mother Teresa

Fortitude is also to finish well and not just starting well.

“Champion is not someone who never fails but is someone who never quits.” – Anonymous

How do you develop fortitude?

Using the acronym ... “**E.N.D.U.R.E**”

Embrace God’s purpose in your situation.

Understand the purpose behind the situation.

If you see the purpose in what you do, you will not collapse. Conversely if you do not have a purpose in what you are doing, sooner you will collapse.

(1 Peter 1:7) These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

God's purpose behind your problem is always bigger than your problem itself.

God allows you to go through trials to develop your character and faith to finish your purpose.

"A man's strength is not shown in victory but it's shown in adversity." – **Anonymous**

If you cannot handle the smaller problems currently, you will not be able to handle the bigger problems in the future.

(James 1:3) For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

(James 1:4) So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.

(Romans 5:3) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us--they help us learn to endure.

(Romans 5:4) And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.

Nurture your spiritual roots.

What are the spiritual roots you need to have?

Go back to the **Bible – Word of God!**

(Mark 4:16) These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

(Mark 4:17) and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

Bible said without spiritual roots, as soon as life gets tough, he will give up.

The problem is not the hard life. The problem is actually

(Mark 4:15) (MES) "There is such shallow soil of character that when the emotion wears off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it."

There is a purpose why there is a Bible now ...

(Romans 15:4) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Circumstances will change but the truth that is in the word of God will last forever. Hence if you build your life on the word of God, you will be building your life on a solid foundation.

Direct your attention to Jesus Christ (God).

There must be someone or something that you must focus on – God!

(Matthew 11:28) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Look at the world, it gives you stress. Look at God, He will give you rest.

(Hebrews 12:2) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The moment you focus on God, you can solve the problem you are facing.

Use your experience to help others.

Understand that whatever God allows you to go through, there is another purpose behind it. Not just for yourself but also to comfort others.

(2 Corinthians 1:6) So when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your benefit and salvation! For when God comforts us, it is so that we, in turn, can be an encouragement to you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer.

From the above verse, you can have this confidence that God is going to comfort you. Because when you are comforted, you can comfort others too. You are empowered to strengthen someone else.

Your greatest life messages do not come out of your strength but it comes out of your own weaknesses. People want to know how you overcome and pick yourself up at the lowest point of your life.

“Who can better help someone who has cancer who had overcome cancer themselves?”

(2 Timothy 2:10) I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen.

Out of the weaknesses will bring fourth endurance.

Rely on God's power.

You are not going to make it based on your own strength. God never meant for you to go through the difficulties on your own strength.

Only when you rely on God, then you will realized how faithful God is.

(**Colossians 1:11**) We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need. May you be filled with joy,

(**Romans 12:12**) (**MES**) "Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder."

Expect God to bless you.

You have to expect that you will not be in this situation forever. There will be an end to it.

(**James 1:12**) God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

(**James 5:11**) We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. Job is an example of a man who endured patiently. From his experience we see how the Lord's plan finally ended in good, for he is full of tenderness and mercy.

Can you expect God will bless you? "YES!"

But is it going to be according to your **faith** that will be done for you.

It is your faith that determines how much God can do for you out of your situation.

Conclusion ...

Embrace God's purpose in your situation.

Nurture your spiritual roots.

Direct your attention to Jesus Christ (God).

Use your experience to help others.

Rely on God's power.

Expect God to bless you.

(**Hebrews 10:36**) Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

If you endure you will reign with God.

God never give up on you. God did not send Jesus to die for you on the cross just for a story. But God sent His only son to die for you that you may know God Himself personally and to have eternal life forever.

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Sermon taken from <http://www.bryanchung.sg>
