

**The need for patience  
in life's journey**

# Sermon text

- **Hebrews 10:34 – 36**

**35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.**

**36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

# Patience, endurance

- from 5278; TDNT-4:581,581; n f
- AV-patience 29, enduring 1, patient continuance 1, patient waiting 1; 32
- 1) steadfastness, constancy, endurance
- 1a) in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
- 1b) patiently, and steadfastly
- 2) a patient, steadfast waiting for
- 3) a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

# Life's journey is never smooth

- **Life's journey is never smooth**
  - **Israel fought several battles in the journey from Egypt to the promised land**
  - **Internal battles – appetites, fears, health etc**
  - **External battles because there are opponents – attacks, opposition, hindrances**
  - **Just the nature of the beast – the terrain,**
  - **Journey's take time factor**
  - **The testing or proofing of God**
  - **Swimming against the tide**
- **We have chosen a difficult journey**

# **We have chosen to go on a journey**

- **We have chosen to go from good to great**
- **We have chosen to be authentic**
- **We have chosen to walk with God**
- **We have chosen to say goodbye to old habits and lifestyles**

# **You have come to believe in promises**

- **Did God really speak?**
- **Am I holding on to straws?**
- **Am I doing the right thing?**
- **Is this my lot in life?**

# The example of Job

- **James 5:11**

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

# Keep on keeping on

- **Do not grow tired**
- **Do not throw in the towel**
- **Do not give up**
- **Do not take the law into your own hands**
- **Vengeance belongs to God**



# What makes things difficult to bear

- **We see others prosper; seemingly**
- **Things seem to be going smooth for others – or so it seems to be**
- **An sometimes things are better for others, no doubt about it!**
- **Everything is against you**
- **Have I been cursed?**
- **What sins have I committed?**
- **Why is it taking so long?**
- **Are things going to get any better**

# Others have travelled this road

## Hebrews 11:32 - 40

**32 ¶ And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:**

**33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,**

**34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.**

**35 Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.**

**36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.**

# Others have travelled this road ~ *cont*

## Hebrews 11:32 - 40

**37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—**

**38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.**

**39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,**

**40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

# **We make a choice and take a stand**

- **Sometimes we make a choice and take a stand because the alternative is no alternative at all**
  - **Curse God and die? No, no, no**
  - **We know that our God is able – but we will not bow down and worship you**
  - **Moses made a choice when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He suffered the consequences for a great while but the rewards came**

## **We make a choice and take a stand - *cont***

- **Hebrews 11:24 - 27**

**24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,**

**25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,**

**26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.**

**27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.**

# Some brutal questions

- **Is this business worth it?**
- **Remember that others have turned back**
- **Is all this self denial and denying myself worth it**
  - **All the fastings**
  - **What about the tithing**
  - **And Church attendance**
- **Shall I continue in poverty?**
  - **My friends have taken sugar daddy's or sugar mummies**
  - **Why can't I play the system like others**
  - **I cannot going through life being childless**

# Some brutal questions ~ *continued*

- **Why should I stay in the loveless marriage?**
  - **He is a brute, does not contribute anything at all to the marriage**
  - **She is a Jezebel, does what she likes and we really are not a couple**
  - **I am financially independent anyway**
  - **My friends have left their spouses and they seem to be happy so why should I be happy**
  - **After all I can get remarried. Others have done it. Preachers have done it and God is using them**

# **You have need of patience**

- **We need to be patient**
- **We need to persevere**
- **We need to endure**



# How do we continue?

## Hebrews 12:1 - 2

**1 ¶ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

**2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**

# How do we continue? ~ *continued*

- **We look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith:**
  - **for strength, support and for grace**
  - **As our supreme example because He has been that way before**
  - **The reward far exceeded the cost**

# God is faithful

- **Hebrews 10:23**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:24**

He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.