



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Steadfast!

Scripture: 1 Cor. 15:58 -Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Steadfast means unwavering faith, loyalty, and commitment to God. It is a person that is reliable, faithful, and true to the end. They are not easily swayed or discouraged, but remain firm in their beliefs and commitments.

Sometimes we become apathetic about serving the Lord because we don't see any results. Knowing that Christ has won the ultimate victory should affect the way we live right now. Don't let discouragement over an apparent lack of results keep you from doing the work of the Lord. Do the good that you have opportunity to do, knowing your work will have eternal results.

James 1:2-4 doesn't say if we face trials, but when we face them. He assumes we will have trials and that it is possible to profit from them. We are not required to be happy when we face pain, but to have a positive outlook because of the results trials will bring. James tells us to turn our hardships into time for learning. Tough times can teach us patience. We can't really know the depth of our character until we see how we react under pressure. Instead of complaining about our struggles, we should see them as opportunities for growth. **Thank God for promising to be with us in rough times.** Ask Him to help you solve your problems or give you the strength to endure them. Then be patient. God will not leave you alone with your problems; He will stay close by and help you grow.

In the Book of First Peter mentions suffering several times in his letter. When he speaks of trials, he is not talking about natural disasters or God's punishments, but the response of an unbelieving world to people of faith. We all face such trials when we let our light shine into the darkness. We must accept trials as part of the refining process that burns away impurities, preparing us to meet Christ. Trials teach us patience and help us grow to be the kind of person God wants us to be. As gold is heated, impurities float to the top and can be skimmed off. Steel is tempered or strengthened by heating it in fire. Likewise, our trials, struggles, and persecutions strengthen our faith and make us useful to God. We're to be prepared for action ("**gird up the loins of your mind**"), live with self-control, and set our hope on Christ's return.

Paul also wrote various letters to the churches he established and encouraged them to be steadfast. Paul encourages the believers to fight side by side, "**striving**" or contending for the faith. How sad that much time and effort is lost by fighting against one another in the church instead of uniting against the real opposition (Satan)! It takes a courageous church to resist infighting and to maintain a common purpose to serve Christ. Christ died to set us free from sin and from a long list of laws and regulations—not free to do whatever we want, for that would lead back into slavery to our selfish desires. We are now free and able to do what was impossible before—to live unselfishly. We who take our freedom for granted in Christ and use it so we can have our own way or indulge in our own desires are falling back into sin. It is discouraging to continue to do right and receive no word of thanks or see no tangible results. But Paul challenges us to keep on doing what is right and to trust God for the results. In due time, we will reap a harvest of blessings.

The Heroes of Faith in Hebrew 11, is our "**great cloud of witnesses.**" Their steadfastness is a constant encouragement to us. We do not struggle alone, and we are not the first to struggle with the problems and various situations we face. Others have run the race and won, and their witness stirs us to run and win also. What an inspiring heritage we have! Therefore, our walk with God involves hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God, to run patiently, and to struggle against sin with the power of the Holy Ghost. **To live effectively, we must keep our eyes on Jesus.** We get discouraged and stumble when we look away from Him to stare at the circumstances surrounding us. **We are running for Christ, not ourselves, and we must always keep Him in sight.**

The old saying, "**You can't take it with you,**" is certainly true of money, fame, and belongings. But God's people can produce fruit that survives even death. God will remember our love, kindness, and faithfulness, and those who accept Christ through our witness will join us in the New Jerusalem. **So, today stay steadfast and continue to produce fruit that will last forever.**