**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church - BIBLE STUDY 6/4**

**KNOW, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE STUDIES**

**HOW DO I ENDURE “MY THROUGH”**

ENDURING YOUR THROUGH…MEANS YOU TRUST GOD UNTIL YOU GET TO THE OTHER SIDE!

ENDURING IS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING & WISDOM

In the midst of your suffering, I urge you to turn to the only place you will find lasting hope and purpose in the pains of today and tomorrow. **It won’t make all your problems disappear, but you will never be alone**. God wants to meet you in your suffering—he promises to. I’ll never leave you or forsake you.

Take the timeless words of scripture and write them on your heart.  Day by day repeat them to yourself, and watch how they renew your mind and bring you to a place of contentment and trust in God.

COME WHAT MAY…WE’RE GOING THROUGH AND WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS!

ENDURING IS THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING & WISDOM

**1. You’re not alone in any step you take.**

Psalm 23:4**: *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”***

There most certainly will be hills and valleys in our lives.  There will be dark places as well.  But our resolve must be supported by the understanding that **shadows can only be seen because light identifies it.**

-God’s presence with you overcomes all that is around you, even the very worst things you can face in life.

-Fearing evil and trusting God don’t mix.

-When we are confident in God’s goodness, we can say with the psalmist, “The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

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**2. You recognize that what you believe matters.**

Psalm 28:7:***'The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.***

David reminds us that God is **always** our strength.  **God empowers** us.  This verse reminds me of Isaiah 40:31, which encourages us that **when we wait on the Lord**, **He will renew our strength**.  Renewed strength is what we need, every day, every hour and every minute and every second. THEREFORE, **at some point,** **you must confess what you believe**.

-I choose to believe that God is close to me when I'm at my lowest point. ...

-I choose to believe that despite how I feel, God is with me and ready to give me strength that I don't have.

-I choose to believe that God has a perspective of things I don't have, and is consistently working.

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**3. God will bring the restoration after suffering.**

1 Peter 5:10: *“And after you have suffered a little while,****the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ****,****will himself******restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you****.”*

**FACT: No one actually wants to suffer.**

HOWEVER…Christians are not exempt from suffering, particularly the persecution that arises from identifying with Christ. While our trials may vary in nature, **every Christian will experience some degree of suffering**.

“A little while” could mean that you suffer in this life for a short season, and then you continue to live, and then you can continue to serve God. So that's one interpretation of “a little while”. Another interpretation, **to be fair to the text**, is that “a little while” could mean you would **suffer all your life till death, and you’d be ushered into eternity with Christ**. And in the light of eternity, your entire life of suffering is still “a little while”.

**QUESTION: IS THIS POINT NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY ENDURE “YOUR” GOING THROUGH?**

The text states:

**1. God will restore you.**

**2. God will support you.**

**3. God will strengthen you.**

**4. God will place you on a firm foundation.**

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**4. Our suffering isn’t meaningless.**

2 Corinthians 4:17: *“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us***an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.***”*

Giving consideration to all that was just read and the dialogue associated, through it all , ULTIMATELY…**the response to hell here is eternal glory there**…as we surrender in obedience to endure through the spirit; we embrace the presence and the power of God.

-The struggle is real and if God purposed…worth it!

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**5. There is purpose in our pain.**

Romans 8:28: *“And we know that****for those who love God all things work together for good****, for****those who are called according to his purpose****.”*

IN EVERY FOOD RECIPE, THERE ARE INGREDIENTS.  NO MATTER YOUR TASTE…MANY RECIPES THAT ARE CALLED THE SAME, INCLUDE, DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS TO BECOME WHAT OTHERS DESIRE IT TO BE.  I LIKE, BUT DON’T LOVE THIS STATEMENT…OUR SUFFERING MAY BE CALLED THE SAME…BUT GOD’S UTILIZES DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS TO GET OUR INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION.

-Interesting thought…**not all those are them!**

-**I Love God** is not I like God.

-I want help from God is not that I want to obey God.

*-*Refer to the #4 point, **our suffering isn’t meaningless**.

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**6. In the pain, Christ is gain!**

Philippians 3:8: *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”*

***MSG 3: 7-9****The very****“credentials” these people are waving around as something special****, I’m tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with****everything else I used to take credit for.****And why?****Because of Christ****. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung.****I’ve dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him.***

-religious practices/customs are meaningless compared to the value of serving Jesus Christ

-serving in obedience through faith

-“I count everything”…I’ve considered everything

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**7. In the hardest moments of our lives, God is fighting for & with us.**

Isaiah 43:2: *“When you pass****through the waters, I will be with you****; and****through the rivers****, they****shall not overwhelm you****; when you walk through****fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.****”*

-**Navigating life’s trials requires faith in God**

-Waters and Rivers: Navigating Emotional and Physical Challenges

-Fire and flame: Enduring and Emerging Stronger

**QUESTION: CONSIDERING PT#7…DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A TRANSFORMATIVE POWER IN FAITH?**

-Having faith asks the question…how do you really believe?

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**8. God brings us “a comfort” like no one else can.**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,****who comforts us in all our affliction****,****so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction****, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”*

The apostle Paul was a powerful teacher and an expert on the older Hebrew scriptures. He could quote them and apply the lessons they taught very effectively, and **he knew how to derive principles upon which specific laws could be based to meet very unusual circumstances.** Paul would have had in mind scriptures such as the following:

-**(Psalm 23:4) Though I walk in the valley of deep shadow, I fear no harm, For you are with me; Your rod and your staff reassure me**.

\* There is no place so dark where God is not present with you.

\* There is no depth of darkness where he does not move through.

**-(Psalm 94:19) When anxieties overwhelmed me, You “GOD” comforted and soothed me.**

\*David knew God.

\*In this verse, David shares…I trust in God!

\*The song writer wrote…”I trust in God who will never fail!”

**(Romans 15:5)AMP . . .Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among yourselves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had,**

-KJV 5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: 6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

\*We can’t begin to know all the ways that people are experiencing affliction today.

-In God’s comfort…BLESS JESUS…He deserves a Resurrection praise

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**9. In the end, he comforts.**

Revelation 21:4: *“****He will****wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

-God will, when or if He wants to!

-We live in the present things…but there will be former things…

-Respect and live for the presence of NO MORE.

**QUESTION: WHAT SHOULD WE DECLARE AS NO MORE; BY THE POWER WE DECLARE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS NO MORE?**

**…WHAT TEARS ARE YOU GRATEFUL THAT GOD WILL DECLARE NO MORE?**