



## Endurance & Encouragement in ministry

There are many ways to approach endurance and encouragement in the ministry, but what I will share with you today represents what God put on my heart for you.

The fastest way to burn out in the ministry is to do what you do “as unto men”.

Don't do it for their applause, or for their agreement, or for their money, or for the prestige they can give you.

The best way to maintain long term encouragement and strength is to do all that you do as “unto the Lord.”

Do it for His glory, by His strength, according to what He reveals to you is His way.

Colossians 3:23

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord and not to men**,

This never necessitates that we violate love. This admonition is not to be taken in cold hearted sort of way, that says “I don't care what you all think, this is what Jesus wants done and if you don't like it take it up with Him.” This is a harsh approach, and does portray the heart and love of God.

Ephesians 4:14-15

14 We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,  
15 but **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ...

Galatians 6:9

9 And let us not grow weary while **doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

John 5:32-34

32 “There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.33 “You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.34 “Yet **I do not receive testimony from man**, but I say these things that you may be saved.

John 5:44

44 “How can you believe, who **receive honor from one another**, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

John 8:29

29 “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for ***I always do those things that please Him.***”

Galatians 1:10

10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or ***do I seek to please men?*** For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

Romans 14:6-8

6 He who observes the day, observes ***it to the Lord***; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats ***to the Lord***, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, ***to the Lord*** he does not eat, and gives God thanks.<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.<sup>8</sup> For ***if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.***

So what should we do?

1. Listen to his voice, never the voice of men, unless it agrees with His voice.
2. Speak what you hear, in love, with grace and sensitivity.
3. Follow His lead, not the lead of men, unless they are going where He is going.
4. What did He do and where did He go, that gave Him endurance and encouragement?

He went into the wilderness, into the garden, up before dawn, alone, crying out, long times of prayer, consistent times of prayer, intense prayer, continuous prayer, ...

5. He worked and He rested. Know when to do both.