

No. 37      Keep Waiting Eagerly With Endurance!

[NOTE: This talk includes videos]

WHAT DOES "WAITING EAGERLY" MEAN? (4 min.)

Endurance requires waiting patiently (1Co 4:12)

But what spirit does "waiting eagerly" denote?

Waiting *patiently* could describe an inmate slumped in a corner of his prison cell, awaiting release

Waiting *eagerly* conveys the idea of patiently enduring, with anticipation, as if the inmate is on his tiptoes, looking out the cell window, keenly expecting his release

The key scripture for the drama we just saw is Romans 8:25 [Read]

Did you notice what enables us to wait *eagerly* with endurance?

The verse says: "We hope for what we *do not see*"

This means that we focus on future Kingdom blessings

As we endure, we "*eagerly wait*" for rescue by Jehovah (Ps 130:6)

WHY IS ENDURANCE NECESSARY? (8 min.)

The Greek noun translated "endurance" denotes courage and steadfastness in dealing with a trial without losing hope

We endure despite obstacles, persecutions, or temptations

Jesus said that Christians *will* have tribulation [Read John 16:33]

Note two things we can learn from this verse

(1) Tribulation is unavoidable; all will need endurance

(2) Jesus' example teaches us to keep waiting with courage; he conquered the world, and so can we

There are many trials that require Christians to have the fortitude to endure patiently and eagerly

Some face such forms of persecution as reproach, intense hostility, misrepresentation, hatred by close family members, mistreatment, imprisonment, or even the threat of death (Mt 10:16-22)

Such trials are obvious threats to our faithfulness

Most successfully *endure* these trials and wait for salvation from Jehovah (Ps 62:1, 2)

Other trials are less obvious and may slowly erode faith

This is what happened to the Bannister family in the video "*Hope for What We Do Not See*"

TRIALS CAN BEFALL THOSE WITH A GOOD SPIRITUAL ROUTINE (6 min.)

Job was a righteous man with a good spiritual routine (Job 1:5, 8)

As Jesus indicated, all Christians *will* experience tribulation

Do you recall the Bannister family's spiritual routine?

[Video crew begins one-minute video]

They were a faithful Witness family like so many here today  
Unlike Job, however, they experienced calamities that were not directly caused by Satan; the calamities initially caught the family off guard

Let us watch again the series of tragedies

[Video crew begins one-minute video]

The Bannisters experienced a succession of unforeseen, traumatic events

Those trials began to rob the Bannisters of their joy  
Additionally, as in Job's case, thoughtless statements by others added to their emotional burden

Recall some remarks that were made

[Video crew begins 30-second video]

Satan endeavors to capitalize on negative experiences in an effort to damage our relationship with Jehovah

"THE THINGS UNSEEN ARE EVERLASTING" (10 min.)

Consider further the theme text, Romans 8:25

What is the context of this verse?

Trials of life are being discussed (Ro 8:18)

If we focus on our unseen hope, we will be able to endure any adversity, eager for the day when our hope will become reality

[Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 4:16-18]

"We do not give up" is another way of saying, "We endure!"

"The man we are outside" refers to our physical person and all that we experience in life

"Wasting away" can denote the impact of various trials we experience, such as ill health, old age, economic woes, persecution, temptation, death of a loved one, and so much more

"The man we are inside" is our spiritual condition

"Being renewed from day to day" occurs when we take advantage of Jehovah's provisions *daily*, such as by reading his Word and Bible-based publications, associating at meetings, and praying

"The tribulation" mentioned in verse 17 refers to any trial or negative experience that we are enduring

"Momentary and light" describes the temporary nature of our painful circumstances

What if we have experienced a trial for years, even decades?

It is still "momentary and light" when compared to our prospective future "that is of more and more surpassing greatness and is everlasting"

"Keep our eyes . . . on" has reference to our mental focus

"The things seen" are present circumstances that we face daily

"The things unseen" include the marvelous Kingdom blessings in the future as explained in God's Word

Though we have not yet seen all of them firsthand, we are to focus on them instead of on present negative situations

Verse 18 summarizes the matter, saying: "For the things seen are *temporary*, but the things unseen are *everlasting*"

Because our unseen Kingdom blessings are in the future, we must endure, *waiting* for them to come

It was prophesied that we would have to wait (2Pe 3:13, 14)

We wait with "eager expectation and hope" (Php 1:19, 20)

"ENDURE FULLY WITH . . . JOY" (6 min.)

There is no limit to the strength we can draw on when suffering

Jehovah can help us to endure with joy [Read Colossians 1:11]

As the video showed, losing a loved one can be devastating

Jehovah's "glorious might," which he displayed in resurrecting Jesus, reassures us that any who die faithful still belong to Jehovah (Ro 14:7-9)

We can help fellow believers who are suffering to endure eagerly and with joy

Do you recall what others did to support the Bannister family?

[Video crew begins 2-minute, 30-second video]

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We can visit those suffering adversity, provide food, talk with them, and help them with house cleaning or maintenance, or even assist financially (Heb 13:16)

Elders are to shepherd such ones and help them remember their future—to hope for what they do not see!

We know that you may want to watch the video again

Hence, at this time, we are pleased to release the video *"Hope for What We Do Not See"*

The chairman will indicate how you can access this video

Remember Job, knowing that whatever trial you face, Jehovah will make a way out so that you can endure it (1Co 10:13)

Hope for what you do not see

Keep waiting eagerly for it with endurance!

TO BE COVERED IN 34 MINUTES

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