

## Endurance

Pastor Timothy Green

How do you feel about troubles and trials? Do you rejoice whenever you find yourself facing difficulty? Do you understand that those things can be good for you?

Rom 5:3-5 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us — they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation. And this expectation will not disappoint us. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. NLT

The reason that Paul tells us that troubles and trials are good for us is because they help us learn to endure, and endurance develops character in us.

In the 2012 Summer Olympics, a sprinter for the USA, competing in the 4x400 meter relay race, heard a distinct “crack” in his leg, halfway through the race. He knew something bad had happened. He felt the pain associated with the injury, yet he continued to run. As a result of his endurance, his ability to fight off the pain and discomfort, his team went on to win the silver medal because of his efforts.

The Bible lets us know that the race isn't to the swift but to those who endure to the end.

Everybody has some battles to fight. Nobody makes it all the way through life without facing some difficulty. We all will suffer pain. Everyone faces some discomfort. The difference is that some endure it and some don't. Some make it through and some quit. Some overcome and others are overcome.

Don't focus on the trouble, focus on endurance. Learn to persevere. If you want to develop character, to become the person that God wants you to become, we must endure, all the way to the end.

Keep your eyes on the prize, your eternal reward. I promise you, it will be worth it! Whatever you have to go through in this life, will be nothing in comparison to the joy's that await us in the life to come.