

# Message



**Endure Until He Returns**

**Neal Parker**

# Unique Among God's Holy Days

## ■ Leviticus 23:23-25

- “a memorial of blowing of *trumpets*”
  - A memorial is something to be remembered
  - Mt. Sinai / Exodus 19:16, 20
    - “...sound of trumpet was loud...”
- **Reminder that God was supreme**
  - **Trumpet sound was a signal**
    - Orders to go forward and stop
    - Assemble
    - War
    - God is in charge



# Unique Among God's Holy Days

## ■ **Leviticus 23:23-25**

### – **I Thessalonians 4:16**

- **“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise firsts.”**

### – **Revelation 11:15**

- **“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”**

- **We remember that God is in complete control and Jesus will return to take the power of King of kings and Lord and lords.**

# What is Endurance?

- In the Bible, enduring means more than simply putting up with trials or adversity. Endurance involves our mind and heart, or the way we react to hardships. A person who endures manifests courage, steadfastness, and patience. Endurance is “the spirit which can bear things, not simply with resignation, but with blazing hope,” says one reference work. “It is the quality which keeps a person on his feet with his face to the wind. It is the virtue which can transmute the hardest trial into glory because beyond the pain it sees the goal.”



# Christian Endurance

## ■ Luke 22:41-42

- Christian endurance is motivated by love. Love for God motivates us to endure anything that is in harmony with his will.

## ■ I Peter 4:7-10

- Christian endurance is motivated by love. Love for our brothers helps us to endure their imperfections.

## ■ Hebrews 11:32-40; 12:1-3

- Christian endurance is motivated by love. Love for the promises of God and their desire to be made complete.



*The Parables of Jesus*



Parable of the  
*Sower*

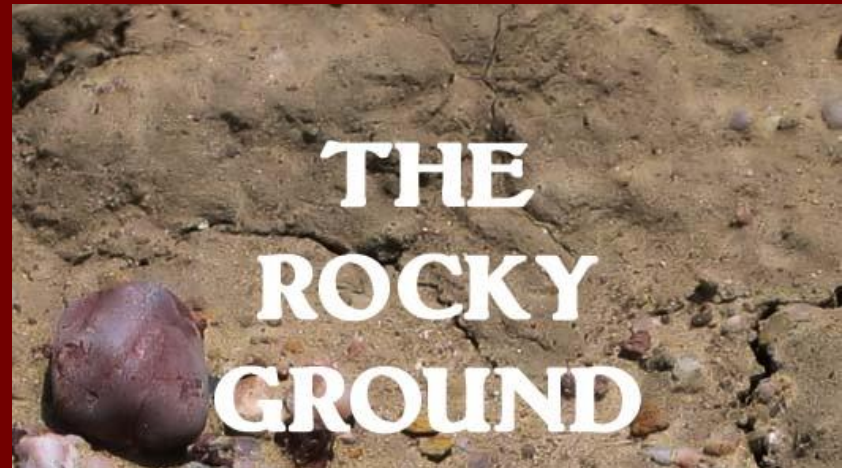
# Parable Of The Sower: Stony/Rocky Ground

- **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-9, 13-20; Luke 8:4-8, 10-15**
  - **Some seeds fall on stony ground with limited soil and insufficient root system / Hears the Word and receives it, but there is no firm root (temporary) when afflictions or persecutions arise because of the word, they fall away.**
  - **Stony Ground / Affliction or persecution arises because of the Word.**
  - **Stony Ground / Believe for a while, then affliction or persecution arises, because of the Word.**

# Intrigued / No Depth Of Understanding

## ■ Matthew 22:14; Luke 13:23-24

- Suffering anxiety from sin, they seem to respond properly, when hearing God's offer of mercy, they may have a temporary peace and happiness.
- Mere excited human emotion is an insufficient motivation to sustain a person throughout the long process of conversion.





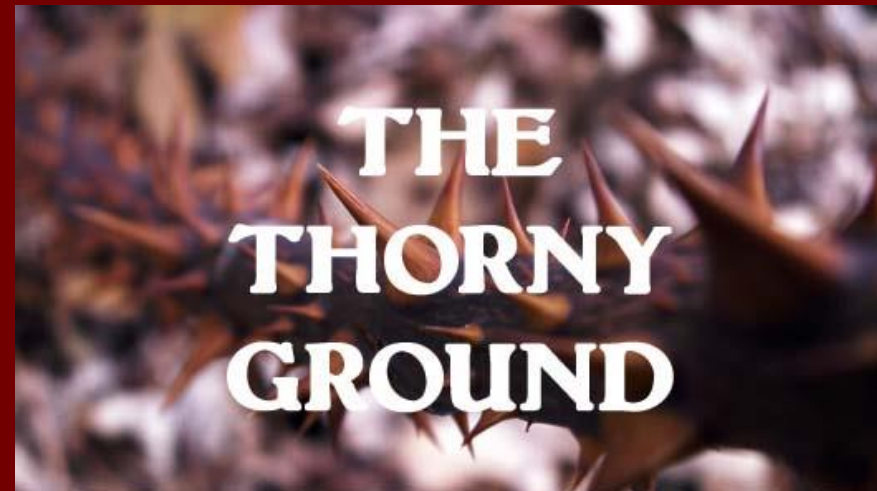
# Parable Of The Sower: Thorny Ground

- **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:3-9, 13-20; Luke 8:4-8, 10-15**
  - **Some seeds fall among thorns resulting in the choking out of seed. / Hears the Word, but worry of the age and deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word causing it to be unfruitful.**
  - **Thorns / Worries of the age, deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things enter and in choke the Word.**
  - **Thorns / Worries of the age, deceitfulness of riches and pleasures of this life, enter in and chokes the Word.**

# Enticements By The World

## ■ Matthew 7:13-14; I Timothy 6:7-11

- Consumed by the cares and anxieties of this physical life and enticement of physical wealth.
- Constant pressures of ordinary life can cause us to ignore God and our Christian growth.

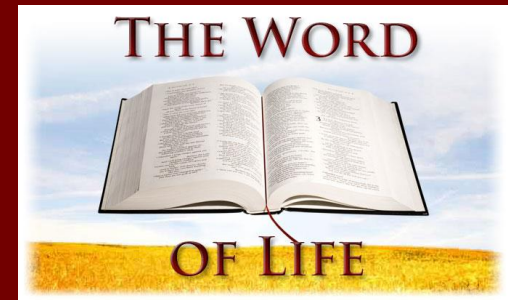


# Parable of the Sower

## Christian Endurance

### ■ Overall Lesson From the Parable for Us

- The speed of apparent growth is far less important than the depth and health of the roots providing that growth.
- The time before Jesus Christ's return may represent a longer time than anticipated, and during it, many trials will arise in which healthy roots are more valuable than stems and leaves, which may look healthy for a time but cannot endure to the end.



# Five Keys Of Christian Endurance

## ■ Turn to God for Strength

- Our Father and Jesus Christ are “the God who supplies endurance and comfort.” (Roman 15:5)
- They alone fully understand not only the problems we face but also the way our environment, emotions, and even our genetic makeup affect us. They are the best ones to equip us, to endure.
- “He satisfies the desire of those who fear him. He hears their cry for help, and he rescues them.” (Psalm 145:19)

# Five Keys Of Christian Endurance

## ■ Nourish your Faith with Spiritual Food

- On Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain, a climber burns about 6,000 calories a day, considerably more than the average person needs. To endure the ascent and reach their goal, climbers must consume as many calories as possible.
- Similarly, to endure in our Christian course and reach our goal, we must regularly take in as much spiritual food as possible.
- We need self-discipline to devote time to reading, study, and our Sabbath and Holy Day meetings. These activities nourish our faith with “the food that remains for everlasting life.”— John 6:26-27.

# Five Keys Of Christian Endurance

## ■ Remember the Issue of Integrity

- When a servant of God faces a trial, there is much more at stake than one person's suffering. By the way we react to our trials, we demonstrate whether we really view God as the Universal Sovereign.
- Satan, an enemy of God's sovereignty, taunted God with the words: "A man will give everything that he has for his life. But, for a change, stretch out your hand and strike [Job's] bone and flesh, and he will surely curse you to your very face." (Job 2:4, 5)
- Satan has not forgotten the issue of integrity. He is eager to see us surrender to our trial and withdraw our support of God's sovereignty.

# Five Keys Of Christian Endurance

## ■ Focus on the Rewards of Endurance

- We may at times feel overwhelmed by the problems you face. Even Jesus could have felt that way. He was the target of “hostile speech from sinners,” humiliation, and even painful execution on “a torture stake”—surely the darkest period of his life on earth!
- “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:2, 3)

# Five Keys Of Christian Endurance

## ■ Let Endurance Complete Its Work

– James 1:2-4

- Trials often reveal our weaknesses, aspects of our personality that we need to refine. If we endure those trials, however, our Christian personality becomes more complete, or sound. For example, we may become more patient, appreciative, and compassionate.

## ■ II Corinthians 4:1, 16

- Christian endurance; we must endure, not for a time, but *to the end*.



# Putting This Together

## Endure Until The Harvest

### ■ Application To Our Life

#### I Corinthians 10:13

- No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.