

A vast field of golden wheat under a bright sky, with the text "Endure Until The Harvest" overlaid in white.

Endure Until The Harvest

Unique Among God's Holy Days

■ Leviticus 23:15-16

– “Count” – caphar

- “to score with a mark, as a tally or record”
- “to inscribe”
- “to celebrate”

– “Complete” - tamiym

- “whole, entire, sound”

– Whole / Complete

– Entire (of time)

– Sound, wholesome, unimpaired, innocent, having integrity

- What is complete or entirely in accord with truth and fact; blameless, perfect, upright or sincere



Biblical Instances of Complete

■ Genesis 6:9

- These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

■ Genesis 17:1

- Now when Abram was ninety-nine * years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.

■ Exodus 12:5; Leviticus 1:3; Numbers 6:14

- Examples of scriptures detailing that the sacrifices (representations of Jesus Christ) were to be without blemish.

Unique Among God's Holy Days

■ Leviticus 23:15-16

– “Count” – caphar

- Its primary usage *always* has to do with either something that has happened in the past or is happening in the present. It has to do with recording and recounting rather than forecasting—that is, rather than counting in advance. Its usage has virtually nothing to do with looking ahead, with speculating on the future.

– “Complete” - tamiym

- The idea of "complete" or "entire" is certainly present in these words, but the way it is used indicates far more than just "not lacking any parts." It implies *complete in a moral sense*.
- In type, then, these seven Sabbaths represent the *process* of the firstfruits becoming spiritually complete, that is, perfect, blameless, and absent of moral blemish—in short, the progression toward putting on the full image of God.

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 man 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

Matthew's Account: Parable Of The Sower

■ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

- Some seeds fall on hard ground that the plow has not been turned; seeds cannot sink into the soil and the birds find and devour it. / Hears the Word, and does not value it, the Evil one snatches away what was sown in the heart
- 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.

Matthew's Account: Parable Of The Sower

■ Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

- 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.
- Some seeds fall on fertile and rich soil that varies in its yield/ Hears the Word, understands it and bears fruit.

Mark's Account: Parable Of The Sower

■ Mark 4:3-9, 13-20

- Hard Ground / Satan takes away the Word that had been sown
- Stony Ground / Affliction or persecution arises because of the Word.
- Thorns / Worries of the age, deceitfulness of riches and desires for other things enter and in choke the Word.
- Good Soil / Hear, accept and bear fruits of the Word

Luke's Account: Parable Of The Sower

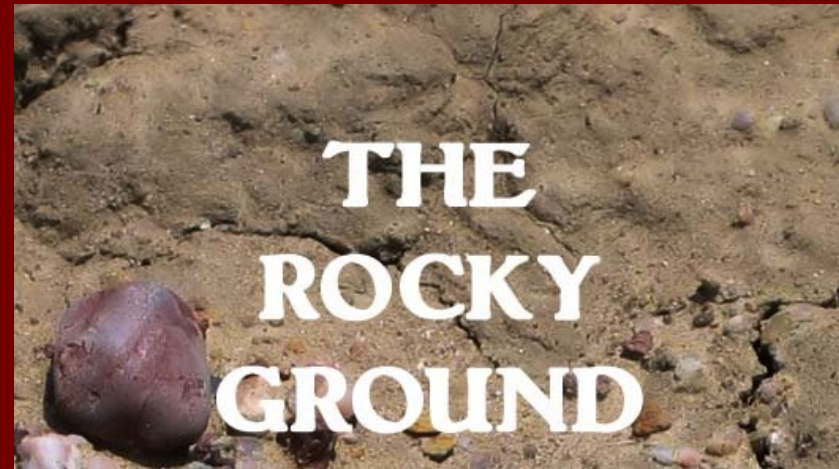
■ Luke 8:4-8, 10-15

- Hard Ground / Satan takes away the Word from the heart, causing unbelief and no salvation.
- Stony Ground / Believe for a while, then affliction or persecution arises, because of the Word.
- Thorns / Worries of the age, deceitfulness of riches and pleasures of this life, enter in and chokes the Word.
- Good Soil / Hear in a honest and good heart, hold it fast and bear fruits of the Word, with perseverance.

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.



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.

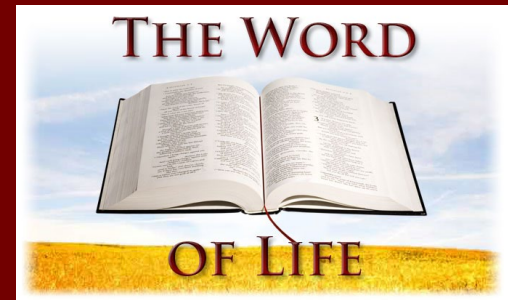


Parable of the Sower

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 seven Sabbaths in the count to Pentecost symbolically represent a long time, 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 understands 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.