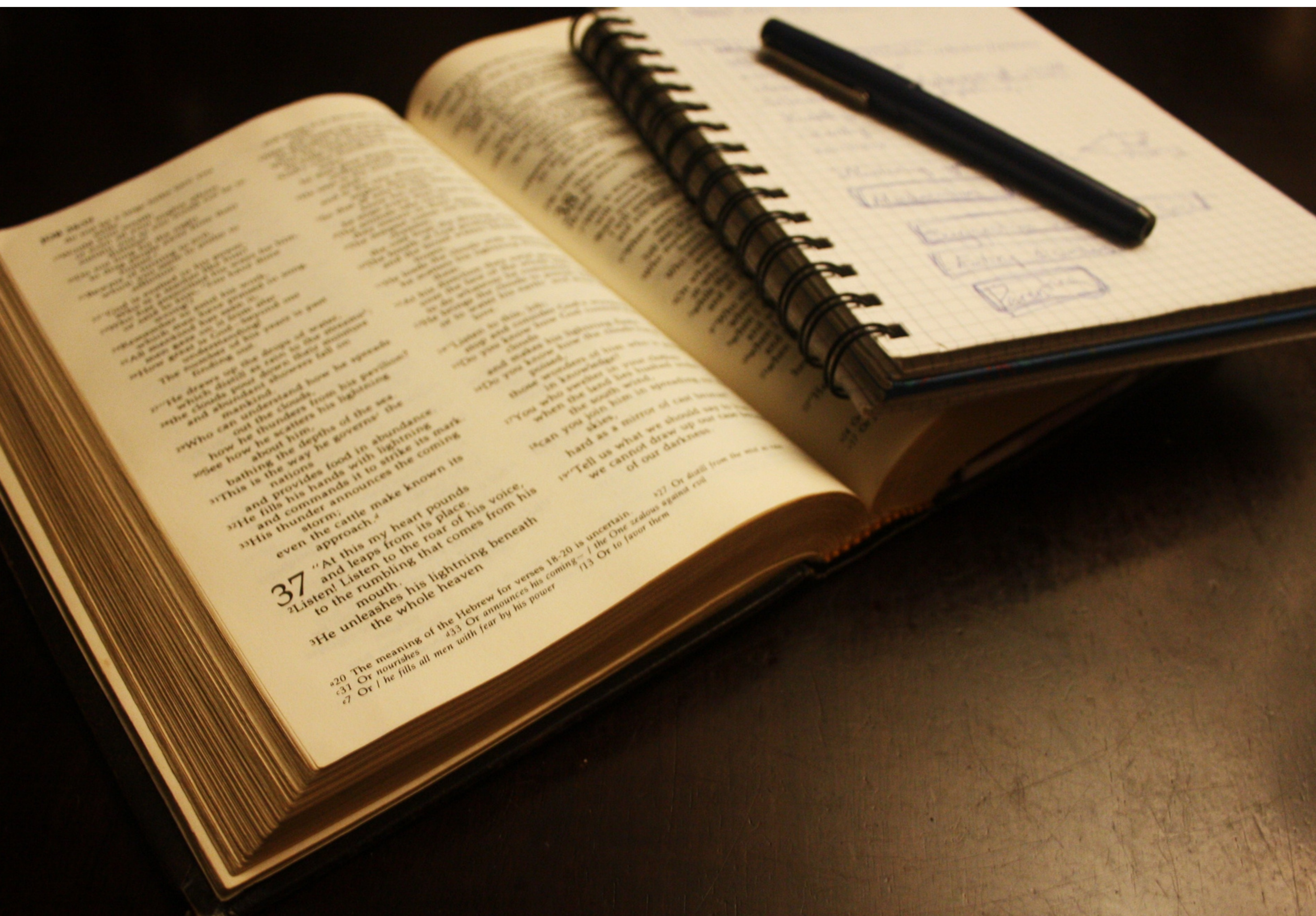


THE CALL TO ENDURE



Philippians 1:29 (KJV)

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake.





Meditation

Endurance is not an accessory to the faith. It is the faith. To be a believer is to be a disciple, and to be a disciple is to endure. According to Philippians 1:29, suffering is not merely permitted. It is given. “Unto you it is given...” The same way we are gifted with saving faith, we are also gifted the honour of suffering on Christ’s behalf. The cross and the crown are inseparable.

This kind of suffering is not random or accidental. It is ordained, appointed, and designed by God for all who follow Christ. The Apostle Paul places it on the same ground as belief itself. Just as saving faith is a gift, so too is the call to suffer. To suffer on behalf of Christ is to suffer for His cause, His purpose, and His Gospel.

Too often, we are happy to accept the promises and the glory, but we shrink at the suffering that opens the gates to it. Yet Jesus never separated the two. He said plainly,

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

– **Luke 9:23 (KJV)**

Jesus deals honestly with us. He is not trying to manipulate anyone into following Him. He openly warns that the way is narrow and hard. His words in Luke 14 call every disciple to count the cost before they begin:

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple... For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost?

– **Luke 14:27–28 (KJV)**

Even the Apostle Paul was forewarned:

“For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

– **Acts 9:16 (KJV)**

Paul didn’t enter ministry unaware. His obedience was informed. He was not seduced by promises of promotion or comfort. He followed by conviction, rooted in revelation and strengthened by grace.

Suffering: Both a Gift and a Call

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

– 1 Peter 2:21 (KJV)

This is the call. Not just to preach the Gospel, but to partake in its afflictions.

Be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.

– 2 Timothy 1:8 (KJV)

The life of a believer is a call to be conformed to the image of Christ. That means embracing both His mission and His method. It is pointless to desire Christ's crown while rejecting His cross.

Modern Christianity often presents suffering as an accessory to the christian life or a problem to be quickly solved. But suffering is the process that shapes us into His image. This is not a strange or alien part of the Christian walk. It is foundational.

Christ's suffering did not diminish His calling; it qualified Him. His victory provides the pattern for overcoming, not through ease or avoidance, but through Spirit-empowered endurance.

Strengthening Faith Before the Storm

Faith is not magic and it's not convenient. It does not spring up in the moment of crisis. It is forged and strengthened through trials. Those who endure the darkest nights will shine the brightest.

Just as David was trained in obscurity with lions and bears before facing Goliath, we too must be trained. God prepares us before the greater trial comes. We do not get faith in the moment. We receive the opportunity to use the faith we've been building through endurance.

The Church is going to have to endure the collision of calamity and tragedy that marks the end times. We are entering an hour where the easy faith of convenience will fail.

Faith must be fortified now, while we still have the freedom to worship, while we still have the strength to train. Because there is a sifting coming.

No Other Way

We live in a generation that avoids pressure, seeks comfort, and equates hardship with failure. But the Word of God and the testimony of Christ declare that suffering is central to our calling, not a disruption to it. There is no crown without a cross. No depth without pressing. No fruit without pruning, no glory without suffering, for they are twins.

There is no alternate path. The Church cannot move from faith to faith and glory to glory without walking through preparation, pressure, and proof. Suffering is not punishment for the disobedient. It is the classroom of the faithful.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.

– Hebrews 5:8 (KJV)

Even Christ was made perfect through suffering. Not because He lacked anything, but because obedience must be walked out. If the sinless Son of God embraced suffering to fulfill righteousness, how much more must we?

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

– Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering...

– Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)

Reflection Questions

- Do you view suffering as a divine gift or as something to escape?
- In what areas of your life has God called you to walk the path of endurance?
- Are you willing to accept that suffering is a necessary part of your calling?

Prayer Prompt

Lord, thank You for calling me, not only to believe in You, but also to suffer for Your name's sake. It is a privilege and an honour to be chosen by You.

As it is written, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18). Help me to see afflictions, hardships, and sufferings not as punishment, but as opportunities to draw closer to You and for Your will in my life to be revealed.

Preserve me according to Your lovingkindness and tender mercies. "Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope" (Psalm 119:49). Let Your promises sustain me when I cannot see the way. Forgive me for the times I have been presumptuous.

I may not always like what You do or what You allow, but I trust your word that says: "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). As long as I remain in Your hands,
I believe I am being shaped for glory.
Amen.

*To view the Bible Study this devotional is based on,
click [here](#)*