

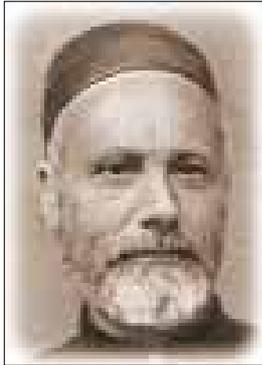
Study 14

The Endurance
JESUS
commanded

Following Christ takes the believer through seasons. There will be seasons of great joy and excitement associated with answered prayer, obvious blessing, clear direction from God, and great fruitfulness. But there will also be seasons where it seems like God has gone- prayers go unanswered, trials pile, doubts mount, nothing seems to work. God comes near for our good and He also “withdraws” for our good (2Chron. 32:31). Christ calls us to follow Him in a way that requires *endurance*.

1. What exciting promise did Jesus make to His followers in Matthew 10:22? (Note what He said was required for salvation because of this promise)

2. What is it in Matthew 13:21 that seems to disappoint Christ?
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James Gilmour (1843-1891)

was a Scottish missionary to Mongolia who made lonely, heroic efforts to preach the gospel to a people steeped in Lamaist forms of Buddhism; spending summers with nomadic Mongols on the plains of Mongolia and winters with Mongols in Peking. After his wife died in 1885, he labored in eastern Mongolia until his death at age 47, after 21 years of missionary service. He knew great physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual hardship. Numerous times he wanted to quit because his calling was so difficult. But he couldn't escape the knowledge that it was the Lord's call for his life. Despite only seeing a handful of converts under his ministry throughout his years of labour and hardship he endured for Christ.

More information about the life James Gilmour can be found at-
<http://www.wholesomewords.org/missions/bgilmour.html>

3. What did Christ say was necessary for His followers to do in Luke 21:19?
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Some Christians follow Christ according to their feelings. If they feel excited about God they read their Bible, pray, attend all church meetings. But if they lose their excitement and don't feel like serving Christ through Bible reading, praying, and worship, they backslide. But Christ wants us to *endure*.

4. According to Romans 5:3 why does God let us suffer? And according to Romans 5:4 why is this both important and good for us?
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Emily Prankard Gilmour: Traveled from London, England, to Mongolia to marry James Gilmour on December 8, 1874. Learned to speak the Mongol language and willingly shared her husband's experiences and dangers. Twice she spent the summer travelling about the plains of Mongolia with him, sleeping in a tent, and enduring hardships. Physically unable to endure such a hard life, she worked among the Chinese girls in Peking, where her husband joined her in the winter to work among the Mongols who came there. They had three boys: James (Jimmie), William (Willie), and Alexander (Alec or Alick) who died as a toddler. Mrs. Gilmour died on September 19, 1885, not long after the birth of their third son.

5. Based on Romans 15:4, what produces hope in us?

6. How is God described in Romans 15:5?

7. How did Paul the apostle say that he responded to being persecuted? (1Cor. 4:12)

8. According to 1Corinthians 13:7 what is it that enables the believer to endure?

9. What qualities did apostles display to demonstrate that they were authentic servants of God based on 2Corinthians 6:4?

10. According to 2Timothy 2:12 what promise awaits those believers who endure for the Lord?

Paul wrote to Timothy to be clear-minded (sensible), to *endure suffering*, to do the work of an evangelist, and to fulfil his ministry (2Timothy 4:5).

11. According to Hebrews 12:1-3, how are we to “run with endurance” and what reason is given for doing so?
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12. In 1Peter 2:20 we are warned that doing good to others might draw a surprising response. What might this response be and how does Peter say we should respond?
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In the closing book of the Bible we read of Christ commending the Ephesian church for enduring against persecution, in the midst of evil, and the claims of false apostles (Rev. 2:2). But not only had the Ephesian church endured, they had endured without growing weary (Rev. 2:3). May God grant us endurance in following and serving Him so that we too do not grow weary in the things that we should be passionate about for Christ.

13. What things should we be more passionate about in serving and following Christ without growing weary?
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The call to endure in the teachings of Christ reveals that following Christ can be tough. Temptation to sin, persecution, distraction, reluctance to sacrifice, hesitance to be discipled or disciplined, lack of encouragement, minimal ministry success, are all reasons to endure for Christ!

Amen.