

Our Endurance Through Faith is our Grace in the Wilderness

steadfastness, patience, faithfulness

“....and in [exercising] knowledge [develop] self-control [develop] steadfastness (patience, endurance), and in [exercising] steadfastness [develop] godliness (piety), and in [exercising godliness [develop] brotherly affection, and in [exercising] brotherly affection[develop] Christian love.” 2 Peter 1: 6,7

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance,character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:1-5

Endurance Produces Character or Godliness

Exercising faith, goodness, intelligence, self control, faithfulness, godliness, love

Integrity - Your whole self is the same in peace and pressure. Every great gift demands a response in character. Eph 6:10-18 (when you have done all - stand), John 6:68 (no where else to turn)

We are called to be faithful in our character, motivated by a love that is not understood by this world.

“We are called by God to live by faith. That’s such a familiar concept to us. But here we are also called by God to LOVE by faith. Loving by faith means we **keep doing it**, by the power of Christ, even when we can’t tell it is doing a whit of good. Even when we are not loved back.” Beth Moore - Prov 13:6, 20:28 / 1 John 2:3-9

Endurance Brings You to Phileo and Agape Love

The Highest form of love, charity. The love of
God for man and of man for God

Epithumia; physical union, marriage **Eros**; erotic, romantic love **Storge**; belonging, family

Phileo; friendship and companionship, common ground

Agape; divine love, the steady intention of the will to another's highest good. Not of emotions or feelings but of the will of choice. It is an ongoing benevolence willing what is best for another, feeling each as a member of his own body. To love even our enemies.

1 Peter 1:8, 1 Cor 13:13, 1 Thes 3:12, Col 3:12-14. Phil 2: 3-1

God is the source of all love. His presence walks us hand in hand to a greater love. He finds pleasure in just communing and being with us. God is love, so there is no other way for Him to respond. This love reflected in us, proclaims "Jesus is Lord" to the world and sets us apart. 1 John 2:3-9

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Col 3:14

The Fruit of Agape Love is True Family & Community

belonging, accepted, valued, known, connected

“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.” Henri Nouwen

“When we break bread and give it to each other, fear vanishes and God becomes very close.”
Henri Nouwen



**BREAK OUT
SESSION
4**

Connecting God's Ability and Provision with Our Current Situation

1. Once again reflect on your New Faith Statement created in our first session. How will faithfully applying this new thought process affect the situation compared to applying it randomly or once in a while?

2. Which statement can you identify with the most?

I Don't think I have the strength to keep going in this situation

I am so tired of trying

It seems like it's not making a difference

I just want to be on the other side

How much longer Lord?

3. How can we help each other "keep on keeping on" when we head home? What would brotherly or sisterly affection and Agape love look like?

Recommended Reading

Emotionally Healthy Sprituality - Peter Scazzero

The Inner Voice of Love - Henri Nouwen

Qualitlies of A Spiritual Warrior - Graham Cook

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