

The Biblical Concept of Endurance

- 1A *Hupomenen* is the main Greek word for endurance.
- 1B Bauer has a brief entry: “To stay in a place beyond an expected point of time...to maintain a belief or course of action in the face of opposition, stand one’s ground, hold out, endure.”
- 2B From Kittel’s Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: “In the first instance *hupomone* is ethically neutral. It simply means “to hold out.” But as *hupomone* later came to hold a prominent place in the list of Greek virtues, so there predominates in ***hupomonenein*** the concept of the courageous endurance which manfully defies evil. Unlike patience, it thus has an active content. It includes active and energetic resistance to hostile power, though with no assertion of the success of that resistance...
- 3B *Hupomenen* is applied in the Christian life so that it describes someone who endures with God and His plan, even in the face of adversity.
- 2A Here are some significant endurance themes and supporting verses highlighted in the New Testament using *hupomenen*.
- 1B Perseverance brings reward
- 1C Romans 2:5-8 5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,
- 2C 2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with *Him*.
- 3C 1 Peter 2:19-20, 19 For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God.
- 2B Perseverance depends on the Word: Romans 15:4-6, 4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3B Specifically, hope brings perseverance: Romans 8:24-25, 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.
- 4B Perseverance or endurance has a growth gradient
- 1C Romans 5:3-5, 3 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 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.
- 2C James 1:2-4, 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3

- knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- 5B Discipline from God gives us endurance: Hebrews 12:7-8, 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
- 6B Paul's character example to Timothy: 2 Timothy 3:10-12, 10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
- 7B The example of the church at Ephesus: Revelation 2:2-3, 2 I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be* false; 3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.
- 8B Therefore, pursue endurance as a virtue: 1 Timothy 6:9-11, 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.
- 3A Endurance verses using *anecho*, to physically hold up a weighty object; to endure
- 1B In adversity and undeserved suffering: 1 Corinthians 4:11-13, 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; 12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; 13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.
- 2B In persecution and afflictions: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-8, 3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. 5 *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. 6 For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- 3B Ability to endure sound teaching: 2 Timothy 4:3-4, 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn

away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

- 4A Endurance verse using *stego*, to cover, fend off, repel; endurance of an ungrateful church, undeserved suffering at the hands of Christians: 1 Corinthians 9:12, If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ.
- 5A Endurance verse using *hupophero*, to carry a burden; enduring the suffering of temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13-14, 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. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
- 6A Endurance verse using *sunkakoukeomai*, endure adversity with; the fellowship of suffering: Hebrews 11:24-26, 24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
- 7A Endurance verses using *makrothumia*, longsuffering
 - 1B As a characteristic of God
 - 1C Romans 2:4, 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
 - 2C Romans 9:22, 22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,
 - 3C 1 Timothy 1:16, 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.
 - 4C 1 Peter 3:20, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.
 - 5C 2 Peter 3:9, 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - 6C 2 Peter 3:15, 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
 - 2B As a characteristic of Christians in suffering
 - 1C 2 Corinthians 6:4-10, 4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, 5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; 6 by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, 7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, 8 by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many

- rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.
- 2C Hebrews 6:11-12, 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
 - 3B Patience is the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:22, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 - 4B Patience is a characteristic of love: 1 Corinthians 13:4, 4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up;
 - 5B Toward other Christians
 - 1C Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - 2C Colossians 3:12-13, 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.
 - 3C 1 Thessalonians 5:14, 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
 - 4C In teaching pastors, 2 Timothy 4:2, 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
 - 5C James 5:8-11, 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.
 - 6B As a characteristic of Abraham: Hebrews 6:13-15, 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.
 - 7B For the rapture: James 5:7, 7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.