

Enable to Endure

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 4:7-18.
- B. *Hupomone* is one of the great neglected words of the New Testament. This describes a person who is long tempered.
- C. This is the theme of II Corinthians 4.
- D. Three contrasts that give Paul patient perseverance.

II. Our weakness and God's strength.

- A. God does not put His strength in something that is already strong.
- B. He puts His strength in things that are weak so that people can see His power.
- C. Paul was facing martyrdom.
- D. However, Paul's emphasis was on giving life to other people.
- E. This kind of life is only lived by faith. (Psalm 116:10)
 - 1. The fullness of faith.
 - 2. The confidence of faith.
 - 3. The service of faith.

III. The inner man and the outer man.

- A. The outward man is the part that one sees. The inner man is the part one cannot see.
- B. As one ages, the outward man fades.
- C. The unsaved old man is tragic because his outward man and inward man are fading in contrast to the saved old man whose inner man is vitalized.

IV. Our present affliction and eternal glory.

- A. Paul's great afflictions were only light because they were in contrast to the eternal weight of glory. (II Corinthians 11:23)
- B. The afflictions work for the believer's greater glory in eternity.
- C. Unseen things are eternal, not seen things.

Application questions:

1. Why does God tend to show His strength through weak things?

2. Why could Paul have hope even though he was growing older and frailer as time passed?

3. How can you remind yourself to maintain a more eternal perspective in your daily challenges? Explain.
