

## 14. Acts 28 — Faithful Endurance

“We can faithfully endure hard times and have joy in the process.”

As Christians, when we encounter stress, pressure, pain and suffering, we are more susceptible to wiggle, run, compromise or sin to avoid the suffering. The Bible encourages suffering believers to **persevere**.

*Consider it joy whenever you face trials of many kinds*

- Joy = a deep, inner gladness, regardless of circumstances. That comes only from a relationship with God.
- Face = to fall into the midst of something that surrounds you.

*Knowing the testing of your faith develops perseverance*

From the Greek word, *hypomone*, a strong word that means “bearing under.”

- Holding up a load with staying power, tenacity and stick-to-it-iveness.
- The quality that enables a person to stand on his or her feet when facing a storm head on.

*Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

*If you need wisdom, just ask...*

*What trials are you facing today?*

Persevere...joyfully...listening to His voice...drowning out all the others...even when it hurts...when you're tired...when you want to give up...when you want to settle for less.

### **Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

### **James 1:2-6 (NIV)**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

*Believe it or not, faithfully enduring the hard times will lead to a joyful walk.*