

ENDURANCE

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [Heb.12:1-2]

When we think of Jesus on the cross, we don't necessarily think of His endurance while hanging there. He could have – at any moment – left that cross by calling on ten thousand angels to come and rescue Him. All the pain and suffering could have been over in an instant, but **He endured the cross.** He endured the betrayal. He endured the pain of those who turned away as their faith was crushed in the apparent failure of His kingdom. He endured the anguish of knowing that others, feeling betrayed BY HIM, bitterly turned away from Father God. He endured the weeping of His mother and the tears, anger, and rejection of His brothers. He endured the mocking, the spittle, the cruel crown, the shame, spiteful harassments of the religious leaders, the nakedness, unbelief, and rejection. He endured it all.....

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³⁵ Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. [Heb.10:35-36]

Lord, we thank you for enduring the cross and all the hate and rejection of men. Thankyou for paying the FULL price for our redemption. Thankyou for coming to live within us so that we can participate in YOUR purity, power, and endurance. Amen.