This Fervency is from God

2Cor. 6:3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, 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 not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

**I.  The Ministry: Its Call to Consistency and Endurance,** [**6:3-10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A3-10)

([6:3-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A3-10)) **Introduction**: one of the greatest needs of the ministry is for consistency and endurance. Too often the daily activities and duties of the ministry are allowed to become routine and mundane. Purpose and zeal—the very reason for which God called the minister—are allowed to fade from memory. Lethargy, complacency, routineness, and professionalism are allowed to slip into the life of the minister and the spirit of fervency is dimmed. There is little zeal to help and reach people for Christ. The present passage speaks strongly to this problem: the call of God to the minister is to be consistent and enduring.

[1.  Paul's great concern was consistency—to offend in nothing (v.3).](about:blank#link482)

[2.  In much endurance—the supreme quality of consistency (v.4).](about:blank#link483)

[3.  In physical sufferings and mental stress (v.4-5).](about:blank#link484)

[4.  In moments of overwork, sleepiness, and hunger (v.5).](about:blank#link485)

[5.  In spiritual growth and behavior (v.6-7).](about:blank#link486)

[6.  In disregarding the world's reaction (v.8).](about:blank#link487)

[7.  In social abuse and persecution (v.9).](about:blank#link488)

[8.  In being content—always (v.10).](about:blank#link489)

1. ([6:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A3)) **Ministry— Faithfulness**: Paul had one great concern—consistency, to offend in nothing. Paul wanted his life and ministry to be so consistent that he would never give any reason for anyone to reject or to turn sour on the Lord Jesus Christ. The word "offense" (*proskopē*[PWS: 2746](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=O\#2746: Offence; Offense)) means to stumble, to strike against. Paul was careful; he guarded his behavior and conduct lest he cause a person to stumble and fall and reject the gospel of Christ.

Paul did not want to be a poor reflection upon the ministry.

Paul knew the nature of man, people look for excuses to reject Christ and to avoid His church. He knew that some people were always searching for gossip to use against the followers of Christ and especially against the ministers of the gospel.

He also knew that God had called him to the ministry of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that no higher call could be issued. Therefore, Paul sought to bring only honor to the ministry and to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Mr 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

1Th 5:6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

1Pe 4:7 ¶ But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1Pe 5:8 ¶ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

•  keep from temptations

keep from giving any offense.

•   keep from being a stumbling block to anyone.

•   conquer all trials.

•   saw to it that the ministry was never blamed because of a weakness or failure on his part.

 Every minister of the gospel must be aware of the great call God has given him. The ministry of Christ demands consistency—consistency in behavior and work. The minister of the gospel must strive just as diligently as Paul did to be consistent. He must be trustworthy and blameless before the Lord Jesus Christ.

**That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (**[**Phil. 2:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+2%3A15)**).**

**And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight" (**[**Col. 1:21-22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A21-22)**).**

**That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe" (**[**1 Thes. 2:12-13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+2%3A12-13)**).**

**And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (**[**1 Thes. 5:23**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+5%3A23)**).**

**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry" (**[**1 Tim. 1:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+1%3A12)**).**

**A bishop [minister] then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach" (**[**1 Tim. 3:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+3%3A2)**).**

**For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders [ministers] in every city, as I had appointed thee: if any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly" (**[**Titus 1:5-6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+1%3A5-6)**).**

**Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (**[**2 Peter 3:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A14)**).**

1. ([6:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A4)) **Endurance**: Paul was consistent in endurance. "Patience" (*hupomonē*[PWS: 2843](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=P\#2843: Patience)) means stedfast endurance. Endurance is the supreme quality, the very backbone of consistency. Unless a man endures, he will never be consistent, not in a corruptible and sinful world. A corruptible and sinful world presents obstacle after obstacle and sin after sin that have to be endured and overcome if a person is to live a consistent life. Stedfast endurance is the basic ingredient and force that a person must have to live a consistent life for the Lord Jesus. When trials, fatigue, temptations, or opposition confront the minister of God, he must do all he can to endure:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Conquer continue  to stand fast  to be unyielding  to remain firm  to last | to overcome forbear  remain firm  to triumph |

To remain firm Note four points.

1.  The picture being painted is not that of a man who sits with folded hands and passively accepts whatever comes. It is the active struggle of the believer's spirit to confront the obstacle or sin and to conquer it.

2.  Also note the word much—much endurance is necessary if this world is to be overcome.

3.  Paul again says that his primary purpose is to live a life that will commend the ministry. "In all things" he sought to build up, to commend, to approve the ministry.

4.  Paul's point is this: he has lived a life of endurance for the sake of the ministry. And he lists all the areas in which he has endured. They are covered in the rest of this passage. Note how the areas span all the areas of a minister's life and ministry.

**In your patience possess ye your souls" (**[**Luke 21:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+21%3A19)**).**

**For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise" (**[**Hebrews 10:36**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A36)**).**

**Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (**[**James 1:3-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A3-4)**).**

**Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh" (**[**James 5:7-8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+5%3A7-8)**).**

**3.** ([6:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A4-5)) Paul was consistent and enduring in physical and mental suffering and stress. Six particular things are mentioned.

1.  Paul endured "afflictions" (*thlipsesin*[PWS: 74](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=A\#74: Afflictions)): pressure, strain, tension that comes both from within and without. Things often press in upon a man, weigh upon and burden down his heart. Sometimes the pressure is so heavy and tight that a man

feels like he is going to explode or be crushed. The pressure may come from some lustful temptation or from some strong trial, but no matter, he is to stedfastly endure all pressing afflictions.

2.  Paul endured "necessities" (*anagkais*[PWS: 2654](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=N\#2654: Necessities)): inescapable hardship, difficulties, pain of life. A minister is called upon to face the necessities of life: he has to eat and drink, clothe and shelter himself and his family; and he has to face the sorrows and struggles and pains of life, including death itself—sometimes beyond what the average citizen has to face. Only one thing can carry the minister through the necessities and experiences of life: endurance. He must stedfastly endure for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry.

3.  Paul endured "distresses" (*stenochōriais*[PWS: 1120](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=D\#1120: Distresses)): straits, calamities, tight places, inescapable situations. It is the picture of being cornered and being unable to escape; a picture of having no room or place to turn, of being forced to confront the situation or else being utterly devastated and defeated. When the minister is cornered by temptation or trial—when there seems to be no escape—his only resource is endurance. He must stedfastly endure lest he offend the gospel and become a stumbling block to others.

4.  Paul endured "stripes" (*plēgais*[PWS: 3811](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=S\#3811: Stripes)): scourgings, beatings, lashings, whippings. This was a savage, excruciating punishment. The whip (*phagellow*) was made of leather straps with two small balls attached to the end of each strap. The balls were made of rough lead or sharp bones or spikes, so that they would cut deeply into the flesh. Paul's hands were tied to a post above his head and he was scourged. It was the custom for the prisoner to be lashed until he was judged near death by the presiding centurion (Jewish trials allowed only forty lashes.) The criminal's back was, of course, nothing more than an unrecognizable mass of torn flesh.

Paul was scourged at least eight times—just imagine! Eight times—five times by the Jews and three times by the Gentiles ([2 Cor. 11:24-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+11%3A24-25)). Tragically, believers all over the world are sometimes whipped and abused because of their testimony for the Lord Jesus. In such times, only one thing can give the believer a consistent life and testimony: stedfast endurance.

5.  Paul endured "imprisonments" (*phulakais*[PWS: 2101](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=I\#2101: Imprisonments)). Paul was arrested and imprisoned several times: in Philippi ([Acts 16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16)), Jerusalem, Cesarea, and Rome. The early church Christian, Clement of Rome (A.D. 96), says that Paul was imprisoned seven times throughout the whole span of his ministry. When the believer, minister or layman, faces imprisonment for Christ, the call of the hour is for consistency: he must endure despite the threat. He must not weaken lest he become an offense to the name of Christ and to the ministry.

6.  Paul endured "tumults" (*akatastasiais*[PWS: 4088](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=T\#4088: Tumults)): mob uprisings and attacks. Paul often faced angered mobs: at Antioch of Pisidia ([Acts 13:50](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+13%3A50)); Lystra ([Acts 14:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+14%3A19)); Philippi ([Acts 16:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+16%3A19)); Ephesus ([Acts 19:29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+19%3A29)); and at Jerusalem ([Acts 21:30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+21%3A30)). Mob uprisings present one of the most difficult and frightening situations imaginable for a believer, for a mob cannot be controlled by reason. The believer is unable to be heard, so speech is useless. Believers often face the abuse and ridicule of crowds because of the righteous lives they live and because they refuse to join in the worldly pleasures and indulgences of life. At such times the believer must be consistent in his testimony—no matter the temptation to go along with the crowd. The true believer, layman and minister alike, must stedfastly endure.

**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (**[**Matthew 5:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A11)**).**

**And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (**[**Matthew 10:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A22)**).**

**"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" (**[**Matthew 10:39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A39)**).**

**"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my names' sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (**[**Matthew 19:29**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+19%3A29)**).**

**"But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me....for I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (**[**Acts 9:15-16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+9%3A15-16)**).**

**"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (**[**Phil. 1:29**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+1%3A29)**).**

**"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe" (**[**1 Tim. 4:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A10)**).**

**"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (**[**2 Tim. 3:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A12)**).**

**"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience" (**[**James 5:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+5%3A10)**).**

**4.** ([6:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A5)) **Ministry— Labor— Faithfulness**: Paul was consistent and enduring in moments of overwork, sleepiness, and hunger. Paul covers all three areas.

1.  Paul endured "labors" (*kopois*[PWS: 2284](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=L\#2284: Labors; Labours)): toil, laborous work to the point of exhaustion. As we study the life of Paul, one striking characteristic about Paul's ministry becomes clear: he never stopped preaching, teaching, or ministering until he just had to have rest. He was not lazy, lethargic, slothful, or complacent. He got up in the mornings and put his hand to the plow: praying, studying, ministering, and witnessing—just as God had called him.

2.  Paul endured "watchings" (*agrupniais*[PWS: 4289](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=W\#4289: Watchings)), that is, sleepless nights. As stated, the record of his life indicates that he arose early and rested only as he needed. He spent nights in prayer, and sometimes found the weight of the churches on his mind so much that he could sleep little if any. The point to see is Paul's great concern for people and their needs: concern so great that it would keep him awake at nights praying and figuring out how to better reach and help people for Christ. Paul was stedfast in the ministry, even enduring sleepless nights for the cause of Christ.

3.  Paul endured "fastings" (*nēsteiais*[PWS: 1448](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=F\#1448: Fastings)). This means not only deliberate fastings, but being so involved in his work that he forgot to eat or else chose to keep working instead of eating.

**Thought 1**. How many ministers honestly...

•  endure overwork—laboriously work to the point of exhaustion? And how often?

•  endure sleepless nights for the sake of prayer and figuring out how to better help and reach people for Christ?

•  endure missed meals in order to get more done for Christ?

**"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance, that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (**[**2 Tim. 1:6**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+1%3A6)**).**

**"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (**[**Rev. 3:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A19)**).**

**"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (**[**Eccles. 9:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ecc+9%3A10)**).**

**"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (**[**Matthew 9:37-38**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+9%3A37-38)**).**

**"Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (**[**John 4:34**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+4%3A34)**).**

**"...lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (**[**John 4:35-36**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+4%3A35-36)**).**

**"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (**[**John 9:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+9%3A4)**).**

**"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (**[**1 Cor. 3:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+3%3A9)**).**

**"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (**[**James 4:17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+4%3A17)**).**

**5.** ([6:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A6-7)) **Ministry**: Paul was consistent and enduring in spiritual growth and behavior. Nine areas in particular are covered.

1.  Paul endured in "purity" (*hagnotēti*[PWS: 3107](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=P\#3107: Pureness)): innocence, cleanliness; free from the dirt, filth, and pollution of the world; free from immoral and unjust behavior and motive. Note that it involves both heart and acts, both motive and behavior. It means to be spotless and stainless, holy and righteous, godly and just. The minister of the Lord Jesus Christ is to live a pure life.

**"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (**[**Matthew 5:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A8)**).**

**"Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned" (**[**1 Tim. 1:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+1%3A5)**).**

**"Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (**[**1 Tim. 5:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+5%3A22)**).**

**"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (**[**1 Peter 1:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A22)**).**

**"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world" (**[**James 1:27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A27)**).**

**"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (**[**2 Peter 3:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A14)**).**

2.  Paul endured in "knowledge" (*gnōsei*[PWS: 2276](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=K\#2276: Knowledge)): the study and understanding of God's revelation and Word. Paul did not neglect the meditation and study of God's Word and revealed will. He learned all he could about how God wanted men to live, and he applied himself to living and teaching that way.

**"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (**[**John 8:31-32**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+8%3A31-32)**).**

**"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (**[**Col. 1:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A10)**).**

**"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**[**2 Tim. 2:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A15)**).**

**"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (**[**2 Tim. 3:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A16)**).**

**"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge" (**[**2 Peter 1:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A5)**).**

3.  Paul endured in "longsuffering" (*makrothumia*): patience, bearing and suffering a long time with people, especially when they were wrong, unjust, abusive, slanderous, and injurious. The minister of God must always suffer and bear a long time with people, even when they are ever so wrong.

**"Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (**[**Col. 1:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+1%3A11)**).**

**"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (**[**2 Tim. 4:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+4%3A2)**).**

**"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you" (**[**2 Peter 3:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+3%3A15)**).**

**"For my name's sake will I defer mine anger, and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off" (**[**Isaiah 48:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+48%3A9)**).**

4.  Paul endured in "kindness" (*chrestotes*): goodness and benevolence of heart and behavior. It is being kind and good, gentle and sweet even when others are abusive and evil, severe and hurting, unappreciative and unthankful.

**"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (**[**Romans 12:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+12%3A10)**).**

**"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (**[**Ephes. 4:32**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A32)**).**

**"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (**[**Col. 3:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A12)**).**

**"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (**[**2 Peter 1:5-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A5-7)**).**

5.  Paul endured in the "Holy Spirit": in the presence, power, and gifts of the Spirit. The great proof that he was a true minister of God was the fact that the Spirit of God worked in and through him. Paul was able to live for Christ and to build the ministry because he walked in the presence and power of the Spirit of God (see outline—• [Romans 8:1-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=600&tocpath=Romans%20Outline\Romans\VI.%20DELIVERANCE%20AND%20REDEMPTION:%20THE%20BELIEVER%20SHALL%20BE%20FREED%20FROM%20STRUGGLING%20AND%20SUFFERING%20BY%20THE%20SPIRIT,%208:1-39\A.%20The%20Man%20in%20Christ%20Jesus%20is%20Freed%20from%20Condemnation:%20The%20Power%20of%20the%20Spirit,%208:1-17); outline—• [John 14:15-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=596&tocpath=John%20Outline\John\XIII.%20THE%20REVELATION%20OF%20JESUS,%20THE%20GREAT%20MINISTER%20AND%20HIS%20LEGACY,%2013:1-16:33\G.%20The%20Holy%20Spirit:%20Who%20He%20Is,%2014:15-26); outline—• [John 16:7-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=596&tocpath=John%20Outline\John\XIII.%20THE%20REVELATION%20OF%20JESUS,%20THE%20GREAT%20MINISTER%20AND%20HIS%20LEGACY,%2013:1-16:33\N.%20The%20Work%20of%20the%20Holy%20Spirit,%2016:7-15); note, Holy Spirit—• [Romans 8:1-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=599&tocpath=Romans%20Commentary\Romans\VI.%20DELIVERANCE%20AND%20REDEMPTION:%20THE%20BELIEVER%20SHALL%20BE%20FREED%20FROM%20STRUGGLING%20AND%20SUFFERING%20BY%20THE%20SPIRIT,%208:1-39\A.%20The%20Man%20in%20Christ%20Jesus%20is%20Freed%20from%20Condemnation:%20The%20Power%20of%20the%20Spirit,%208:1-17); note—• [John 14:15-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&tocpath=John%20Commentary\John\XIII.%20THE%20REVELATION%20OF%20JESUS,%20THE%20GREAT%20MINISTER%20AND%20HIS%20LEGACY,%2013:1-16:33\G.%20The%20Holy%20Spirit:%20Who%20He%20Is,%2014:15-26); note—• [John 16:7-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=595&tocpath=John%20Commentary\John\XIII.%20THE%20REVELATION%20OF%20JESUS,%20THE%20GREAT%20MINISTER%20AND%20HIS%20LEGACY,%2013:1-16:33\N.%20The%20Work%20of%20the%20Holy%20Spirit,%2016:7-15) for more discussion).

**"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (**[**1 Cor. 2:4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+2%3A4)**).**

**"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake" (**[**1 Thes. 1:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+1%3A5)**).**

6.  Paul endured in "unfeigned love": love that is not counterfeited or faked; love that is sincere, genuine, and pure; love that is unlimited, selfless, and sacrificial. No matter what a person does, unfeigned love forgets self and sacrifices whatever is necessary to reach out and help the person. The minister of God must always be consistent and endure in unfeigned love.

**"...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (**[**Matthew 22:39**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+22%3A39)**).**

**"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (**[**John 13:34-35**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+13%3A34-35)**).**

**"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (**[**John 15:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A12)**).**

**"Let love be without dissimulation [hypocrisy]. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (**[**Romans 12:9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+12%3A9)**).**

**"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you" (**[**1 Thes. 3:12**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+3%3A12)**).**

**"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (**[**1 Peter 1:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A22)**).**

7.  Paul endured in the "word of truth": the preaching and teaching of the truth, that is, of the gospel, of the Word of God. The minister must always preach the truth of God's Word, not the thinking, philosophies, and ideas of men. The novel ideas of men are always coming upon the scene as the latest fashion of the day, but only the Word of God endures. God has called the minister to proclaim His Word; therefore, the minister must endure in proclaiming the word of truth.

**"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him" (**[**Acts 28:31**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A31)**).**

**"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (**[**Matthew 10:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A7)**).**

**"What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops" (**[**Matthew 10:27**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A27)**).**

**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (**[**Matthew 28:19-20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+28%3A19-20)**).**

**"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (**[**Mark 16:15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+16%3A15)**).**

**"Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life" (**[**Acts 5:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+5%3A20)**).**

**"These things command and teach" (**[**1 Tim. 4:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A11)**).**

**"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (**[**2 Tim. 4:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+4%3A2)**).**

8.  Paul endured in the "power of God": the power of God was an absolute essential, for no human being could deliver men from sin, death, and judgment. Only God had the power to create men anew and give them eternal life. Therefore, Paul had to have the power of God upon his life and ministry if his labor was to be effective and bear genuine fruit.

**"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (**[**Acts 1:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+1%3A8)**).**

**"And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (**[**Acts 4:33**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+4%3A33)**).**

**"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (**[**1 Cor. 2:4-5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+2%3A4-5)**).**

**"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man" (**[**Ephes. 3:16**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+3%3A16)**).**

**"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (**[**Ephes. 3:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+3%3A20)**).**

9.  Paul endured in "the armor of righteousness": the righteousness or justification of Christ; the power to live a life of righteousness; the acts of righteousness to which Christ had called him. All of these meanings are probably meant here. No matter what the attacks were or against which hand they attacked, from the right hand or the left hand, Paul resorted to righteousness. He proclaimed...

•  that he stood in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

•  that he had committed his life totally to the Lord Jesus Christ, to live a life committed totally to the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

•  that he acted righteously for the sake of the ministry.

**"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (**[**Matthew 5:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A20)**).**

**"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame" (**[**1 Cor. 15:34**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A34)**).**

**"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness" (**[**Ephes. 6:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+6%3A14)**).**

**"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God" (**[**Phil. 1:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+1%3A11)**).**

**"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (**[**1 Tim. 6:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A11)**).**

**6.** ([6:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A8)) **Ministry**: Paul was consistent and enduring in disregarding the world's reaction. The world's reaction to Paul is covered in three sharp contrasts.

1.  Paul was honored by some and dishonored by others. Some showed respect; others did not. Some gave him the honor due a minister of God; others did all they could to dishonor him. However, Paul stood and endured all dishonor done him.

2.  Paul was talked about: some spread evil reports about him; others good reports. He was criticized and censored and had rumors spread far and wide by those who opposed him, but others loved and understood and stood by the good he was doing. Whatever the situation, Paul consistently endured and continued to minister for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

3.  Paul was treated as a deceiver, yet he was as true as a person could be. The word "deceiver" means to be an imposter, a false teacher, a quack. However, he stood fast: no matter the charge, he endured and continued right on preaching the truth and doing all he could to help and reach people for Christ.

**"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake" (**[**Matthew 5:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A11)**).**

**"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (**[**Matthew 10:22**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+10%3A22)**).**

**"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you" (**[**1 Peter 5:10**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+5%3A10)**).**

**7.** ([6:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A9)) **Ministry**: Paul was consistent and enduring in the face of social abuse and persecution.

1.  Some treated Paul as unknown; others as well known. The word "unknown" means to dismiss, ignore, disregard. Some just wanted nothing to do with the minister of God. But others loved Paul because of what he had done for them and was doing for people throughout the church. No matter the treatment, Paul endured for the sake of the gospel and people.

**"To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out" (**[**John 10:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A3)**).**

**"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (**[**John 10:14**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+10%3A14)**).**

**"But if any man love God, the same is known of him" (**[**1 Cor. 8:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+8%3A3)**).**

**"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (**[**2 Tim. 2:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A19)**).**

2.  Paul was treated as dying, yet he lived. Some looked upon Paul as reckless and unwise, as a man who courted the disfavor, anger, and rejection of men. They saw Paul as a "fool" who was doomed, who was rapidly walking the road to death. But others understood and knew the truth: he was a new creature in Christ, a man who had found eternal life, and he was compelled to share the glorious news with the world no matter the threat to his own safety. He knew the truth and he had to do all he could to awaken men to the truth—regardless of the consequences. Therefore, he endured the cross, dying to the world, in order to share the glorious news of eternal life.

**"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter" (**[**Romans 8:36**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A36)**).**

**"For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (**[**2 Cor. 4:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A11)**).**

**"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (**[**Galatians 2:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+2%3A20)**).**

**"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him" (**[**2 Tim. 2:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+2%3A11)**).**

**"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (**[**Luke 9:23-24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+9%3A23-24)**).**

3.  Paul was chastened, yet he was never killed. Being chastened means suffering. Paul was constantly suffering for the cause of Christ and he was willing to be chastened in order to help and reach people for Christ. No person and no thing could kill him until Christ was ready for him to depart for heaven. Until that time, he would endure any suffering, any chastening as long as he had breath to bear witness for Christ.

**"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (**[**John 15:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A2)**).**

**"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (**[**1 Peter 1:6-7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A6-7)**).**

**"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (**[**1 Peter 4:12-13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+4%3A12-13)**).**

**8.** ([6:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+6%3A10)) **Ministry**: Paul was consistent and enduring in being content—always. Three contrasts are again made.

1.  Paul was looked upon as sorrowful, yet he was always rejoicing. The worldly and carnal saw him as seldom if ever having fun. He never joined the crowd in their worldly pleasures and activities, nor did he seek the comforts and possessions of the world. He was viewed as an extremist in separation, a man who missed out on the pleasures and fun of living. However, Paul was filled with joy, true joy—the joy that comes from knowing where he had come from, why he was here, and where he was going. He was gripped with the utmost security, confidence, and assurance of life.

**"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (**[**John 15:11**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+15%3A11)**).**

**"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (**[**John 16:24**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+16%3A24)**).**

**"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (**[**Romans 14:17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+14%3A17)**).**

**"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (**[**1 Peter 1:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A8)**).**

**"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (**[**1 Peter 4:12-13**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+4%3A12-13)**).**

2.  Paul was considered poor, yet he made many rich. He was a travelling missionary, a man who in the eyes of the world was homeless and without worldly possessions. Yet, he possessed the true wealth, the only wealth that can really make a man secure—the wealth of God's presence and love and care. And Paul shared his wealth with others. He always shared how men could possess the eternal treasures of heaven.

**"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (**[**Matthew 6:20**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+6%3A20)**).**

**"Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (**[**Matthew 19:21**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+19%3A21)**).**

**"Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not" (**[**Luke 12:33**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+12%3A33)**).**

**"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (**[**Phil. 3:8**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+3%3A8)**).**

**"Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life" (**[**1 Tim. 6:19**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+6%3A19)**).**

**"[Moses] esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward" (**[**Hebrews 11:26**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+11%3A26)**).**

**"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" (**[**James 2:5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+2%3A5)**).**

**"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (**[**Rev. 3:18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+3%3A18)**).**

3.  Paul was looked upon as having nothing, yet he possessed all things. He had no worldly goods, but he did have the promise of God: he was to possess all things very shortly, as soon as Jesus returned. He was an heir of God, even a joint-heir with Christ ([Romans 8:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A16-17). See note, Reward—•[1 Cor. 3:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=601&sec=00002338#sp10103).)

**"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (**[**John 14:2-3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+14%3A2-3)**).**

**"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (**[**Romans 8:16-17**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A16-17)**).**

**"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (**[**Titus 3:7**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+3%3A7)**).**

**"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (**[**1 Peter 1:3-4**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Pe+1%3A3-4)**).**

1. Fervent in Faith and prayer

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

1. Fervent in Love and work

1Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to **his working**, which **worketh** in me mightily.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1Co 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

2Co 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

By the Word of Truth,

2Co 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

By the Power of God

1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

By the Armour of Righteousness

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The Sword of the Spirit

Knowledge is to take you by the power of God to true servant hood then son ship

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Jer 23:18 For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?

22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

23 Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?

29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

The unhumbled heart of man is like a rock; if not melted by the word of God as a fire, it will be broken to pieces by it as a hammer.

1Ki 20:23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.

28 And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Ac 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Ac 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Ac 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

Paul sought not to rest, but pressed on, as if he had yet done nothing. He is already possessed of Ephesus and Asia. He purposes for Macedonia and Achaia. He has his eye upon Jerusalem, then upon Rome; afterward on Spain, Ro 15:28. No Cesar, no Alexander the Great, no other hero, comes up to the magnanimity of this little Benjamite. Faith and love to God and man had enlarged his heart, even as the sand of the sea.

Ac 17:1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

5 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

6 And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

8 And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

9 And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

When men are willing to receive the truth, and to reject all error, the preaching of the gospel can have none but peaceful and happy effects. But otherwise, it brings "not peace, but a sword"

Mt 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

2Co 2:16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

apostolic method—fearlessly preach truth, and leave the consequences with God and the people.

Lu 2:34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

Isa 49:2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Ro 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Mt 9:25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and **the maid arose.**

Mr 5:40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of **the damsel**, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Damsel—a girl or young unmarried woman, originally one of noble birth

But now a noble life

“one only daughter”

Luke 8:41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:

42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Acts 20:10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

1Kings 17:21 And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.

22 And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

2Kings 4:34 And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

35 Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

Ps 56:13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

(What people call Stubborn faith) must be immovable faith

* immovable faith is absolutely needed

by every parent in behalf of their children

by every believer to overcome every obstacle.

not a desperate faith that is a mixture of emotions but faith against desperation

Faith can separate the emotions and faith can conquer the emotions.

Ac 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Heb 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

What must precede immovable faith is a **inquiring faith** (people call desperate faith)

* inquiring faith is searching, incisive (razor-sharp), penetrating, enquire

1Pe 1:10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Salvation is passing from death unto life

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Ro 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Jo 3:14 ¶ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

2Co 1:10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

The prophets were men who were called and chosen by God:

To enquire and search diligently and God’s grace would be revealed.

Proclaim God's salvation to man.

Prophesy and predicthow God was going to save man.

2Pe 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Mt 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Lu 10:24 For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Salvation is a mystery. The prophets did not understand all that God was telling them to proclaim. they did not know when the Messiah would be sent to earth.

"The prophets knew what they prophesied, but not at what time the Messianic prophecies would be fulfilled"

The prophets prayed and asked God time and again, and they diligently sought to understand the age when the Messiah would be sent to save man. They wanted to know what the age would be like, the characteristics and signs of the time.

⇒  They wanted to know the very same thing that the Lord's disciples wanted to know when they asked about the Lord's return: "When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" ([Matthew 24:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A3)).

⇒  They wanted to know the very same thing that believers want to know today when they discuss the Lord's return: When is Christ going to return and what are the signs of His return?

The picture is this: they actually hungered and thirsted to understand all they could about God's promised Messiah and salvation. They prayed and diligently sought, sought just as diligently as miners who dig and dig down through the earth and then drill and drill through the rock until they reach the pure ore

If these great men of God had to search and search for the truth of God's Word and salvation, how much more do we? We are without excuse. We have the prophets as dynamic examples of men who hungered after God's salvation.

1Sa 22:10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.

13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

1Sa 23:2 Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

4 Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

1Sa 28:6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

Eze 14:3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

Eze 20:3 Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

Eze 20:31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.

1Sa 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

2Sa 2:1 ¶ And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

2Sa 5:19 And David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Philistines? wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

2Sa 5:23 And when David enquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

Zep 1:4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

6 And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

Jer 22:14 That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion.

Eze 8:10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

Eze 23:14 And that she increased her whoredoms: for when she saw men pourtrayed upon the wall, the images of the Chaldeans pourtrayed with vermilion,

15 Girded with girdles upon their loins, exceeding in dyed attire upon their heads, all of them princes to look to, after the manner of the Babylonians of Chaldea, the land of their nativity:

Ex 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: