*Monday, February 14, 2011*

**Endurance**

Matthew 24:11-13 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (12) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. (13) But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (KJV)

Strongs definition for ‘endure’:

5278 hupomeno (hoop-om-en'-o); from 5259 and 3306; to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere: KJV-- abide, endure, (take) patient (-ly), suffer, tarry behind.

This week our goal is to remind the Church of what it takes not only to begin this eternal race but to endure to make it to the end as well. If you have ever seen a marathon, you see that many enter the race but in the end fewer cross the finish line. For those that have begun their journey with the Lord on His path of life, they need to realize that this is just the beginning; and in order to be crowned with an eternal crown of life they will need to continue through with their commitment to the end.

James 5:10-11 Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. (11) Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy. (KJV)

Along the way on this path of life, your new found walk in the Spirit, you will encounter opposition, trials and tribulations which you will find will only be overcome by your patient endurance. We in these last days live in a drive through, fast food, instant gratification realm, where the word patience is no longer an option to many. However, for those that have found and experienced a new life in Christ, you will need to know how to operate in patience so that you can endure to the end.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (5) And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. (KJV)

As we started out today we saw in the scriptures that in these last days that we live in, that many false prophets will rise up and deceive many, which is referring to God’s people. I read a quote today about the true character of a person is how they handle adversity, and the character of that person will truly be revealed through these things. How are you handling the affairs of this life today; are you still an over comer, or are you drowning, letting outward things have more of an influence on your walk than the inward?

James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (KJV)

You know, there is a big difference between what man calls patience and the patience of God that brings about a perfect solution to the trials and tribulations that we all encounter. So it’s not the fact that if we will encounter these situations, but rather how will they be handled. So today, is the joy of the Lord your strength, or did you run elsewhere looking for an alternative answer? Simply put, did you stay put in the realm of the Spirit, or did you think something carnal and quick would bring the results?