

Romans Chapter 8
Week 6, v. 25

Romans 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

The Greek word *apekdechomai* is used twice in this verse. It's meaning – to expect fully.

Perseverance <hupomone> cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy – enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).

This is not *maybe* what God's word says will happen, but *definitely* all things will come to pass just as it is written. There is no chance of defeat here. Therefore, our endurance is produced from certainties not possibilities. It is not just wading through the muck and mire to get to the other side; it is being excited to move through circumstances knowing we will claim the promises of our Father.

Is it possible to be joyful through difficult circumstances? YES! Because our focus is on the eternal picture rather than only the current picture.

2Co 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

You've seen large, beautiful homes built right by the 14 Freeway just before Avenue S. If you look at just a narrow view, you might consider why someone would put so much effort into building something to live in that has the freeway for its front yard. But, looking at the bigger picture, you will see beyond the freeway and realize that they have a beautiful view of Lake Palmdale and the entire valley beyond.

If we have a well-grounded expectation of our resurrection and final glorification, knowing that such things are necessarily future, and must for a certain time be delayed; then do we patiently wait for them, continue patiently to endure the common ills of life, and whatever tribulations we may be exposed to in consequence of our Christian profession; for we know, FAITHFUL is he who has promised. Hope is a sort of universal blessing, and one of the greatest which God has granted to man. To mankind, in general, life would be

intolerable without it; and it is as necessary as faith is even to the followers of God. Adam Clarke's Commentary

The ancients have a very instructive and elegant fable concerning it [hope]. "Prometheus having made a human body, went up to heaven, and stole some celestial fire to animate it: Jupiter, incensed at the theft, sent down Pandora, with a box full of diseases and plagues of every kind, as an ensnaring present to Prometheus; but he refused to accept it. Epimetheus took and opened it, and instantly all those diseases, &c., by which mankind have been made miserable, flew out, and spread themselves over the whole earth; and only HOPE remained at the bottom of the box." This fable explains itself, as to its main design. Men find life, with its various and unavoidable ills, only supportable by the hope they have of not only getting safely through them, but of enjoying a state of blessedness in the end. Hope is still at the bottom; and therefore man is encouraged to bear up in all the pressures of life. Take away hope, and then black despair and indescribable wretchedness would be the instant result. Hope stands justly among the highest mercies of God. Adam Clarke's Commentary

Faith in God's promises for redemption and salvation produces hope.

1Th 1:3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

Heb 6:11-12 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

What is the opposite of hope? Hopelessness – despair; desperateness, bleakness.

We see the word patience (perseverance) repeated from verse 23. How important is perseverance? Look again at Hebrews 10:36. It says we have *need* of endurance (patience). Need <chreia> means it is demanded, required, necessary.

Ro 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

What does this endurance or patience look like to others – how is it translated into our everyday lives?

Ro 12:10-13 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Jas 5:7-11 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and [is] merciful.

***There are no application questions this week that have been prepared for you. Instead, please work through the study on your own and prayerfully consider the applications that God is putting on your heart. Please write down your own questions, answer them and be prepared to share and encourage the group next week with the information God has helped you discover. Have fun!!