

Endurance is the ability to withstand hardship or stress, especially in physical activities. It is also defined as the maximum time you can exert force on or perform an activity to a certain extent. Another definition is the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant, difficult process, or situation without giving way (i.e. "He / She was close to the limit of their endurance.")

Many parts on an aircraft have an endurance time limit. This endurance time for "remove and replace" can either be flight hours or a calendar date. Endurance time is critical knowing they will eventually wear out or break down, requiring replacement, refurbishment, or repair. If disregarded, some parts can cause catastrophic problems for other normal working parts of the aircraft. Also, aircraft have endurance charts for flight performance, and pilots are able to change endurance times by stretching the amount of fuel used. Examples are taxiing with one engine shut down, long wait time or assigned position for takeoff, altitude, strength of tail winds, or using the correct index for fuel management can all affect fuel useage. In one way or another, the power of endurance will affect our lives.

On A Personal Level

Bringing endurance into a more personal level, how is the power of God's endurance molding and shaping your life? Endurance is hard at times, with so many problems on your mind, heartaches, or a difficulty you are going through. You may be experiencing challenges physically, emotionally, financially, or spiritually. Please be of good cheer. One thing we know for sure is that Jesus sees exactly what you are going through; He knows your yesterdays, today, and what tomorrow will bring. He for sure has heard your prayers and has already started answering some of them before you ask. Jesus feels your pain and has walked in your shoes. He endured opposition, hardship, beatings, jeering, loneliness and the horrible crucifixion to gain all humanity! Jesus said, "Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."

Lightening Our Load

In life we all will go through rough patches. Looking at others that have leaned on God's power of endurance helps to lighten our load. When looking at Biblical characters, we know God has given them the power of endurance. Joseph endured false accusations, separation from his family, imprisonment, going from the pit to the palace, and living 22 years of his life before being reunited with his father, Jacob, and his family. Moses grew up as Pharaoh's son, he endured 40 years of herding sheep. Then God used him to become the liberator of the enslaved nation of Egypt. David endured persecution from King Saul for many years, then became the greatest king Israel ever had. Gideon endured past insecurity, fighting off an army of over 120K with only 300 men. Esther endured, overcoming her fear to become a Queen, and then to save her nation, the Jewish people, from genocide. Jeremiah, the weeping profit, endured, and proved that in the midst of our darkest moments a brighter beam of hope also will shine through. He knew in the darkest moments for Israel, God would make a way of escape, promising new life and new hope, proving that sadness, sorrow and tears will not have the last words.

Nehemiah endured past so much opposition and hatred to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem with a ragtag group of people but with tremendous architectural achievement. Job endured tremendous pain, hardship, heartache, and suffered much loss. Yet he never gave up and came to understand the love of God more thoroughly; in the end his wealth was doubled. Jacob endured past lots of hardships, attitudes and family problems (i.e. deception, unfair treatment, fighting within his household, and definitely marital problems). However, his endurance acquired blessing.

Peter endured past his failures, lies, and turned his back on his best friend, Jesus. But oh Hallelujah, filled with the power of God's enduring Holy Spirit, he then led 3,000 people to Jesus all in one day.The Apostle Paul endured imprisonment, beatings, constant threats on his life, torture, humiliation, shipwreck, and a thorn in his flesh. Despite these hardships, his unwavering commitment to spreading the message of Jesus never faltered in the face of adversity, inspired many, and helped solidify the foundations of early Christianity.

Another True Story of Endurance

In closing, I will share a true story of courage, persistence, perseverance, and especially endurance of a Christian young man. He failed in his business at 22, ran for a Legislature seat and was defeated at 23, failed again in business at 24, was elected to a Legislature seat at 25, his sweetheart that he was dating died whenhe was 26, he ended up having a nervous breakdown when he was 27, he was defeated for Speaker at 29, he was defeated for Elector at 31, was defeated for Congress at 34, was finally elected to Congress at 37, defeated for Congress at 39, was defeated for Senate at 46, was defeated for Vice President at 47, was defeated again for Senate 49, and, to God be the Glory, was elected as the 16th President of the USA at 51. This was the endurance record of

Abraham Lincoln. He once said, "I can understand how a man can look down and say there is no God, but I will never understand how a man can look up and say there is no God." Abe read the Bible daily, prayed, and sought the Lord for wisdom and council to help end the Civil War right before his assassination on April 15, 1865. He said good areas to endure in are marriage, family, church, job, health and schooling. He too, was a great example of Christ!

FCAP's Role

FCAP is being used by our Lord Jesus all around the world in helping fuel God's power of endurance! One day and one decision at a time, seeking God every day for refreshment and power through His word, prayer, fellowship, worship, and training in becoming a mature disciples of Jesus.

This article was written by Jerry Litwiller. Jerry retired as a Captain with United Airlines and went on to work for a season with JSX. He serves as President of our FCAP Board of Directors and travels to many parts of the world with the purpose of sharing the love of Christ and His Gospel message.



Additional Scripture To Encourage You In Your Journey Of Endurance

James 1:4
"Let perseverance/endurance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking anything."

Revelation 12:11
(A great strategy for Satan's defeat)
"And they overcame him because of the Blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life, even when faced with death."

Hebrews 13:20-21
"Now may the God of peace equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the enduring power of Jesus Christ every good thing that is pleasing to Him."

Psalm 37:4
"Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your heart's desires."

Proverbs 16:3
"Commit your actions or ways to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."

Philippians1:6
"I am certain that God who began the good work within you will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Jesus returns."

Philippians 3:13-14
"I focus on this one thing, forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God through Christ Jesus is calling us."



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