119 MINISTRIES

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Persevering Through the Fire—Enduring Persecution and Tribulation

Brothers and sisters, if you are going through trials right now, if you feel the weight of suffering pressing down on you, if you are surrounded by darkness and pain, let me tell you something—this is not strange. This is not unexpected. This is what Yahweh told us would happen. Do not be deceived by false teachers who tell you that if you follow Yahweh, your life will be easy, that you will prosper in the ways of the world, that you will have comfort. That is a lie. Yeshua said in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." Tribulation is not just something for the end times. It is now. It is today. And it will increase as we draw nearer to the return of the King. Paul told us in 2 Timothy 3 "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted." Not some, but all! If you are truly walking in the ways of Yahweh, if you are keeping His commandments, if you are proclaiming His truth, then you will face opposition. Some of you have lost your jobs because of your faith. Some of you have been abandoned by family because you chose to follow Yahweh's ways. Some of you have been mocked, slandered, and falsely accused. And you cry out, "Why, Yahweh? Why is this happening to me?" I tell you, brothers and sisters, Yahweh has not abandoned you. He is testing you. He is refining you. He is proving your faith, because faith that is never tested is faith that cannot be trusted. If anyone understood suffering, it was Job. The Scriptures tell us that he was a righteous man, a man who feared Yahweh and shunned evil (Job 1:1).

And yet, Yahweh allowed Satan to strip everything from him—his wealth, his health, even his children. Can you imagine the weight of that suffering? His own wife told him to curse Yahweh and die. His friends accused him of hidden sin. And Job himself, though he never cursed Yahweh, was filled with anguish. He did not understand why this was happening to him. Some of you feel like Job right now. You feel abandoned. You feel betrayed. You feel like your suffering has no purpose. But listen to me—Yahweh was never absent. He was testing Job, proving him. And in the end, Job's faith was vindicated. Yahweh restored him, but more than that, Yahweh revealed Himself to him in a deeper way than ever before. Before his trial, Job said, "I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You." (Job 42:5)

Do you understand? There is a depth of knowing Yahweh that can only come through suffering. There is an intimacy with Him that is forged in the fire of affliction. Many of you are looking at your suffering and thinking it means that Yahweh is displeased with you. But what if I told you that your suffering is not a sign of His rejection but of His approval? Scripture says: "For Yahweh disciplines the one He

loves, and chastises every son whom He receives." (Hebrews 12:6)

Do you know what that means? It means that if you are enduring trials, it is because Yahweh is refining you. He is shaping you. He is molding you into the image of His Son. Silver is refined by fire. Gold is purified by heat. And faith is proven through suffering. Peter wrote: "Rejoice, insofar as you share in Messiah's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed." (1 Peter 4:13)

Some of you are crying out for Yahweh to remove the trial, but what if the trial is the very thing that will prepare you for His coming? If anyone had the right to live without suffering, it was Yeshua. He was sinless. He was perfect. And yet, He suffered more than any of us could ever comprehend. He was betrayed by His own disciple. He was falsely accused by the religious leaders. He was beaten, mocked, and nailed to a tree—though He had done nothing wrong. And yet, He did not fight back. He did not defend Himself. He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him (Hebrews 12:2).

That joy was you. That joy was your redemption, your salvation. Yeshua showed us how to endure suffering. And He promised that if we suffer with Him, we will reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12). So I ask you, will you endure? Will you remain faithful? Brothers and sisters, if you think things are difficult now, understand this—the real tribulation has not even begun. The final three and a half years of this age will be unlike anything we have ever seen. Persecution will rise. The world will turn against us. Many will be martyred for their faith. Yeshua warned us: "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake." (Matthew 24:9)

Are you ready for that? Or will you be like those who fall away when persecution comes? Will you be like the seed that sprang up quickly but withered when the sun of tribulation arose? (Matthew 13) I tell you the truth—only those who are rooted in Yahweh's Word, who love Him more than their own lives, will stand in the days ahead. But hear me, brothers and sisters—your suffering is not in vain. James wrote: "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which Yahweh has promised to those who love Him." (James 1:12)

A crown of life. Eternal glory. The kingdom of Yahweh. Paul said in Romans 8: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." What is 70 or 80 years of suffering compared to eternity in the presence of Yahweh? If you endure, if you remain faithful, if you trust in Him even in the fire, He will reward you. So I tell you—do not grow weary. Do not lose heart. Hold fast to Yahweh. Cling to His promises. Do not let the enemy steal your faith. The storm is here, but Yahweh is with you in it. The fire is hot, but it is refining you. The night is dark, but the morning is coming. Endure. Stand firm. Finish the race. And when you finally stand before your King, when He wipes away every tear, when He places the crown of life upon your head, you will know—it was worth it...

May Yahweh bless you and keep you...Amen.
We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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