

因盼望所存的忍耐

ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE

保羅寫給帖撒羅尼迦教會的兩封書信，前書特別說到主的再來，後書則說到再來的。而在這兩封信一開始時，保羅為他們眾人感謝神，在神面前不住的記念他們「因信心所做的工夫，因愛心所受的勞苦，因盼望我們主耶穌基督所存的忍耐。」(帖前 1:3)

什麼是我們的盼望呢？為何有了盼望還需要忍耐呢？這裏說我們的盼望是主耶穌基督；歌羅西書一章七節也說，「基督在你們心裏成了有榮耀的盼望」。我們都盼望當基督顯現的時候，我們要與祂一同顯現在榮耀裏。而今天基督住在我們裡面，是我們對這盼望的把握。

因為我們的盼望是主耶穌基督，所以神必須在今天將基督的生命製作在我們身上，到那一天，整個教會才能承受豐滿的基督。因著基督的內住，所有的盼望才具體且實在。必須經過每一個今天的忍耐，至終神的旨意才能完成，我們的盼望也才能實現。

一、我們若盼望那所不見的，就必忍耐等候

盼望的根源在於信心的眼睛被打開，看見了那不能看見的。「我們得救是在乎盼望；只是所見的盼望不是盼望，誰還盼望他所見的呢？但我們若盼望那所不見的，就必忍耐等候。」(羅 8:24-25) 若我們的盼望只是肉眼可見的，若我們只是在今生有指望，那我們就比世人更為可憐。

我們的盼望是那所不見的，是永遠的，但這卻控制著我們的一生，讓我們能忍耐等候。希伯來書第十一章說到一

Paul wrote two letters to church of the Thessalonians. The first one specifically talked about the second coming of the Lord, and the second one the coming Lord. In the beginning of both letters, Paul thank God for them and continually remember before God and Father “your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1Th 1:3

What is our hope? Why do we still need endurance when having hope? In the above scripture, it indicates that our hope is in our Lord Jesus Christ. Col. 1:27 also states : “Christ in you, the hope of glory. “ We all hope to appear in glory with Him when He appears. Today, the fact that Christ dwells in us is our hope of glory.

It is because Lord Jesus Christ is our hope, God needs to weave the life of Christ in us in our life time. The purpose is that we will be able to receive the fullness of Christ one day. The indwelling Christ makes our hope possible and realistic. It takes endurance every day to complete God’s perfect will for us and to make our hope come true.

I. If We Hope for What We No Not Yet Have, We Wait for It Patiently

The reason we have hope is because our inner eyes have been open and seen what was unseen. Just as it is stated in Ro 8:24 -25: “For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.” If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

What we are hoping for is unseen and eternal, but able to control how we live our life and cause us to wait patiently. In Hebrews

個偉大的信心行列，「這些人都是存着信心死的，並沒有得着所應許的；卻從遠處望見，且歡喜迎接，又承認自己在世上是客旅，是寄居的。」信心將不能看見的盼望實化在我們裡面，使我們不再留戀地上的一切。

二、主耶穌的盼望與忍耐

主耶穌也是看見了祂榮耀的盼望而輕看一切，走完十字架的道路。什麼是主所看見的盼望呢？希伯來書第十二章說到我們信仰的創始者和完成者耶穌。「祂因那擺在前面的喜樂，就輕看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦難，便坐在神寶座的右邊。」

主的盼望就是那擺在祂前面的喜樂，而什麼是擺在主前面的喜樂呢？這喜樂就是我們這些神的兒女，也就是祂所要得著榮耀的教會。

因這盼望，主輕看羞辱；因這喜樂，主忍受了十字架的苦難。祂如今已得勝，坐在父神寶座的右邊，等教會長大成熟，與祂一同得勝。

三、保羅的盼望與忍耐

保羅（原名掃羅）在大馬色的路上遇見了主，一面他看見了在榮耀裏的基督，另一面，他看見了榮耀的教會。過去他逼迫捉拿走主道路的基督徒，但主卻說，「掃羅、掃羅，你為什麼逼迫我。」元首和身體、基督和教會在復活境界中乃是一個。

這一個看見成了抓住保羅一生的盼望。雖然為主受了許多的苦難，至終為主殉道，他在哥林多後書第四章說，「我們這至暫至輕的苦楚，要為我們成就極重無比、永遠的榮耀。原來我們不是顧念所見的，乃是顧念所不見的；因為所見的是暫時的，所不見的是永遠

chapter 11, it says: “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.” Faith can make real in our hearts this unseen hope and enable us not to love this world.

II. The Hope and Endurance of Jesus

The Lord Jesus also saw the hope set before Him, and, therefore, despising all shames and finished His way of the cross. What was the hope our Lord saw? In Hebrew 12, it talks about the author and perfecter of our faith, “who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The Lord’s hope was the joy set before Him, which is His children, also His glorious church.

For this hope, the Lord was able to despise all shames; for this joy, the Lord endured the cross. He now has won the victory and sits at the right hand of the father God, waiting for His church to grow up and share in His victory.

III. The Hope and Endurance of Paul

Paul (originally Saul) saw the Christ in glory and the glorious church on his way to Damascus. Prior to that, he persecuted Christians, but the Lord said he was persecuting Him. It was because the head and body, just as Christ and church, were one in the resurrection realm.

This vision became the hope that captured Paul all his life and enabled him to be martyred for the Lord. As he said in II Cor.: “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

What we can see with our fleshly eyes are

的。」

今天肉眼能見的不過是短暫的、是必朽壞的，我們的盼望卻是永遠的、是榮耀的。保羅有這盼望，所以今日的苦楚對他來說是至暫至輕的，所以他能忍耐，竭力地向著標竿直跑。

四、因盼望而忍耐等候直到主來

因著看見而有盼望，因著盼望才能忍耐，這是帶著盼望的忍耐。如同詩人所說，「我的心等候主，勝於守夜的，等候天亮，勝於守夜的，等候天亮。」（詩 130:6）黎明之前是夜最深的時候，也是守夜的人感到最困頓、疲乏的時候，但也是最需儆醒的時刻。

主就是這個「天亮」，主來了就是天亮來到。今天是主來之前夜最深、屬靈爭戰最猛烈的時候，我們的心要專一地等候主，與主同走最後一段路程。「弟兄們哪，你們要忍耐，直到主來。看哪，農夫忍耐等候地裏寶貴的出產，直到得了秋雨春雨。你們也當忍耐，堅固你們的心；因為主來的日子近了。」（雅 5:7-8）

當金色黎明，耶穌降臨；
當金色黎明，爭戰全贏；
主得勝呼聲，宇宙震驚；
當金色黎明，聖徒歡欣。

摘自梁家聲弟兄主日信息

temporal and will surely decay, but our hope is eternal and glorious. Paul had this hope, so sufferings in this life were “light and momentary”. Therefore, he could endure and run toward the goal.

IV. Because of Hope, Endure until the Lord's Second Coming

Vision brings forth hope; hope inspired endurance. Just as the poet said in Ps 130: “My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. “ Dawn is the last hour before the daybreak, the time watchmen are most weary, and also the time needs to be most alert.

The Lord is the “daybreak”. When He comes darkness will be gone. Right now is the darkest hour before His coming. We need to wholeheartedly wait for Him and finish the last segment of our journey. “Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.”(James 5: 7-8)

*Some golden day break Jesus will come;
Some golden day break, battles all won,
He'll shout the victory, break thro' the blue,
Some golden day break, for me, for you.*

Sunday Message of brother Timothy Liang

見證分享： 我在教會中最大的感動

STORY: WHAT MOVES ME THE MOST IN THE CHURCH

每次題到教會，我們的心是這麼感動。教會是主的身體，是主的豐滿，是歷世歷代所有神的兒女，被寶血洗淨、被聖靈重生，是主所救贖，是聖靈的傑作，是榮耀的教會，是羔羊的妻…。越想越喜樂，越想越榮耀。所以，教會真的不是只有外面的建築，也不是只有外面這些人，但藉著外面的會所，神召聚我們，作工在我們身上，成就我們成為屬天教會的一分，我們乃是與主相聯、與永遠相聯、與神旨意相聯、與眾聖徒相聯。藉著看得見的會所，看得見的弟兄姊妹，神作永遠的工，叫我們有意義和價值。

我在教會中，最大的感動就是遇見主。教會在這裡，主耶穌就在這裡，聖靈就在這裡，神的兒女也在這裡，每次來就知道在主的同在中我們可以來遇見主。主是活的，主是顯現的，主是說話的，主是真的……。多少次在擘餅聚會中被主的愛摸著，被聖靈充滿；在信息聚會、在讀經聚會中，再看見主的寶貴，救恩的豐富，常常使我重新得力，常常使我在平凡生活中喜樂，不只是我自己有這樣的經歷，我也看到有那麼多的弟兄姊妹，有台灣來的，有大陸來的，有從各地來的，來到教會，沒有多久就得救了，就遇見主了，就改變了。

我們實在不是聚人的會，主在這裡，祂是又真又活的神，祂開我們裏面的眼睛，聖靈把主運行在我們裏面，我們就覺得主是這麼親、這麼好、這麼甜。有的時候成為我們一生的一個大轉機，因我們遇見了主。更多時候是叫我們得到生命的新鮮供應，是我們在世界

Our hearts are greatly moved whenever thought about “church”. Church is the body of the Lord, the fullness of the Lord, God’s children through out all generations, cleansed by His precious blood, born by Holy Spirit, redeemed by the Lord, the master pieces of the Holy Spirit, the glorious wife of the Lamb, ... The more one thinks about it, the more joyful one becomes, and more glorious the thought. Therefore, church is not just a building, or merely a group of people. It is through the use of building, God gathers us, works on us and makes us a part of the heavenly church. We are united with the Lord forever, united with God’s purpose, and united with all saints. God does eternal work and makes us significant and valuable.

What moves me the most in the church is to meet with the Lord. The Lord Jesus is where the church is. Every time when we come to church, we know the Lord is here, and we can meet with Him. The Lord is living, desires to appear to us, speaks to us, and He is real. Many times, we are touched by His love and filled by His Spirit in the breaking of bread meetings; we realize His preciousness and His fullness in Bible study meetings or message meetings. Such blessings refresh and strengthen me. Therefore, I can greatly rejoice in ordinary living. Not only I have these kinds of experiences, but also many other Christians from all parts of the world have similar experiences. They came to church and had a encountering with the Lord, so they were changed.

What is precious is that we are not just a meeting with people, but with the Lord. He is true and living, and able to open our eyes. His Spirit moves within us and makes the Lord so dear, so nice and so sweet. Experience like that sometimes becomes the great turning point in our life. Also, it provides fresh provision to our

生活時的力量與保守。我感謝主，我常在教會中遇見主，常在教會中蒙保守、蒙祝福。

聖徒詩歌 678 首第 4 節：「我寶貴她特點—遠超最高喜樂—，甘甜交通，真誠奉獻，愛和讚美之歌。」教會最寶貴的是主，其次是弟兄姊妹。神把肢體量給我們，一同配搭服事，一同追求、一同讚美敬拜主，這是我們很大的福分。像我們這樣軟弱的人，是多麼需要得到肢體的鼓勵和扶持，我們不是常常站在高峰，不是常常強壯不跌倒，乃是因為在身體裏面，有一個肢體愛主就挑旺我們來愛主；有一個肢體有信心，就堅固我的信心；有一個肢體有美德就影響我的生命。因為我們在主裏面的生命是交通的生命，所以是連於元首，也是全身都靠祂聯絡合式。

這麼多年在教會中（我 12 年在迦福市基督徒聚會，7 年在聖迦谷基督徒聚會）是不是全然美好，沒有一點失誤、冷淡、荒涼呢？我們是常有不及，常有冷淡，常有失敗，這是我們的本相，我自己更是這樣，但是主偉大的寶血一直遮蓋我們，偉大的聖靈一直運行，吞滅一切的死亡，是神一直不改變，偉大的愛一直扶持我們，叫我們有盼望，叫我們被改變。

我感謝主，我感謝教會，我應該把自己更多放在教會中，與弟兄姊妹一同往前。

王羅碧桃姊妹

life, and enables us to walk with strength and in His protection. I thank the Lord for in the church I often meet with the Lord and am therefore blessed.

Just as stated in one of the songs in our hymn book (no. 678): "Beyond my highest joy, I prize her heavenly ways, Her sweet communion, solemn vows, Her hymns of love and praise." Church cherishes the Lord the most, then Christian brothers and sisters. One of the greatest blessings God gives us is members of His body so that we can serve together, pursue together and praise together. We are often weak and need encouragement of one another. We do not always stand on the peak and never fail. The precious fact is that one member's love for the Lord will rekindle our love; one member's faith will strengthen our faith; one member's virtue will influence our life in a positively way. The life we have from the Lord is a life that can fellowship, a life that is connected to the Head and function properly together.

Does that mean all years in the church are perfect without troubles and desolation? We will always fall short of good virtues, and often fail, for that is our true condition. I myself is even more often so, but the precious blood of our Lord constantly covers us, and His Spirit works inside of us to swallow all death. His love never changes and always supports us so that we can have hope and be changed.

I thank the Lord for church. I will put myself more in the church and proceed forward with all my brothers and sisters.

Sister Mary Wang