

May 10, 2017

EXTREME FAITH

What makes a hero?

"A hero is a person, who makes a radical impact on another person causing that person to be changed for the better..." "The radical change occurs when you" use your strength to serve..." "As you jump into situations to help others you are letting them know they matter..."

As you help others you are being lead by God because you follow God, you will make an impact on the ones that you are helping, because you follow God, your story will be marked with the finger print of God... You will have endurance for the battle because you will depend on God for all things...

What Makes A Hero?

A HERO ENDURES AND FIGHTS ON...

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

Name:

A hero endures and fights on...

It's the end of the day, you got everything done today, and you feel a sense of peace. But it wasn't like this all day, at different times of the day you had to endure and press through to reach this point. Endurance got you here, but it may not have been smooth you may have whinnied, you may have lost self-control at some point, but in the end you had to push through to finish the work that needed to be done.

Our lives are extremely busy for most of us we take on more things than we should ever try to do. There are many reasons for this but that is not the point of today's EFMag. Today we are talking about and looking to understand that in this life, we have to have endurance to finish the race that is before us. What is endurance?

Dictionary.com defines endurance this way:

1. the fact or power of enduring or bearing pain, hardships, etc.
2. the ability or strength to continue or last, especially despite fatigue, stress or other adverse conditions; stamina: He has amazing physical endurance. Endurance is the character trait of a hero, to press through pain and discomfort to complete a task, or assignment. We all have the ability to have and to live with endurance to get

through the rough and hard times of our days. A hero endures and fights on, is a big statement. If we are enduring then we are going through hardships, and endurance is what allows us to fight on. Without endurance we would quit and give up. The Bible is very clear that we all have the ability to receive and live out of endurance. Romans 15:5 puts it this way. May the God who gives **endurance** and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. God gives out endurance and strength to us when we call on Him and ask for it. He also gives us encouragement to press on. The task and the job that we have been given to complete will stretch us and test us, and in the end will cause us to be dependent upon God to get the job done. This is the mission, to tell the world that Jesus is Lord and that He loves the world. We are all on a mission from God to carry out the message of Jesus Christ! If you are living out this mission then you will need endurance and you will need to depend on God every step of the way! A hero endures and fights on, is a character trait that we each need to have to see our family and friends come to know who Jesus is. So press on and depend on God!

**A HERO
ENDURES
AND FIGHTS ON...**



*A Hero endures,
and fights on...*

What are you running through right now in your life? Do you feel like you can't just keep on going this way with so much to do and so much to get done? Well that is where endurance comes into play. We have to press on and keep fighting, if we are going to see the end. God has given us a mission to tell the world about Jesus! We each will need endurance to complete this goal! Never stop, never stop fighting to tell the world about Jesus in all that you do!

Real Life Hero's

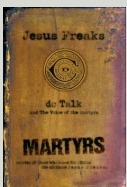
"Now I Am Strong"

Thomas Hudson

England 1558

The Roman governor stood resolutely before the forty Roman soldiers of the Thundering Legion. "I command you to make an offering to the Roman gods. If you will not, you will be stripped of your military status. The forty soldiers all believed firmly in the Lord Jesus. They knew they must not deny Him or sacrifice to the Roman idols, no matter what the governor would do to them. Camdidus spoke for the legion, "Nothing is dearer or of greater honor to us than Christ our God." The governor then tried other tactics to get them to deny their faith. First he offered them money and imperial honors. Then he threatened them with torments and torture with the rack and with fire. Camdidus replied, "You offer us money that remains behind and glory that fades away. You seek to make us friends of the Emperor, but alienate us from the true King. We desire one gift, the crown of righteousness. We are anxious for one glory, the glory of the heavenly kingdom. We love honors, those of heaven. "You threaten fearful torments and call our godliness a crime, but you will not find us fainthearted or attached to this life or easily stricken with terror. For the love of God, we are prepared to endure any kind of torture." The governor was enraged. Now he wanted them to die a slow, painful death. They were stripped naked and herded to the middle of a frozen lake. He set soldiers to guard them to prevent any from coming to shore and escaping. The forty encouraged each other as though they were going to battle. "How many of our companions in arms fell on the battle front, showing themselves loyal to an earthly king? Is it possible for us to fail to sacrifice our lives in faithfulness to the true King? Let us not turn aside, O warriors, let us not turn our backs in flight from the devil." They spent the night courageously bearing their pain and rejoicing in the hope of soon being with the Lord. To increase the torment of the Christians, baths of hot water were put around the lake. With these the governor hoped to weaken the firm resolve of the freezing men. He told them, "You may come ashore when you are ready to deny your faith." In the end, one of them did weaken, came off the ice, and got into a warm bath. When one of the guards on the shore saw him desert, he himself took the place of the traitor. Surprising everyone with the suddenness of his conversion, he threw off his clothes, and ran to join the naked ones on the ice, crying out loudly, "I am a Christian."

Some call it "the mystery of martyrdom." Why would seeing 39 believers who were willing to die for their faith inspire a highly-trained soldier, in the prime of his life, to join them in death? It seems so foreign to our American way of thinking. It is amazing to see how God works through these tragic situations to call more people to Himself



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks do
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs

BEING A HERO

EXTREME APPLICATION

Following God is awesome and as we live for God we have to have endurance! It will be a fight to win the battle and we have to press on and dig into all that He has for us. Pick up your hammer and go for Gold!

Think About it (The tension of Enduring)

If one is having to endure, then they must be in pain and must fight to press on. It is not a fluffily thing to endure. You have to fight through the pain, you have to understand that the thing that you are fighting for is worth the journey.

The tension, you could just quit, you could stop fighting and you could take it easy and just float through life not really living to your full potential. You could settle for an ordinary life and do okay.

But that is not the attitude of a Hero, and each one of us has been called to be a Hero! So how do you fight through how do you endure?

Call on God for endurance and for encouragement! He will bring it and he will deliver it to you. But you have to call on God and you have to live your life in dependence with God. Now get that last sentence because that is where some tension can arise because it is not in our culture to be dependent upon anything. In fact if you have to depend on something it is considered a weakness and not a strength. God is the source of our strength and our ability to endure and press on through all things.

As you live to change the world with the message of Jesus Christ you will need all of His strength to flow through you, and this will be you living your life in dependence upon God. This will give you all the strength you need, but living that way in this world will bring the heat on you and it will challenge you to the max. So press on and be encouraged always as you seek to unleash the full Hero that lives in you!



Dig In

Read Romans 15 1-2 (The Message) Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. 2 Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

3 That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it. 4 Even if it was written in Scripture long ago, you can be sure it's written for us. God wants the combination of his steady, constant calling and warm, personal counsel in Scripture to come to characterize us, keeping us alert for whatever he will do next. **5. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus**

Do you have endurance?

Do you have endurance?

What is the toughest thing that you went through for someone else?

What is the toughest thing that you went through for someone else?

Is your life lived out of a dependence on God?

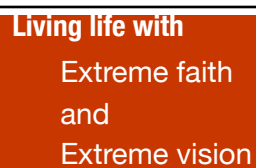
Is your life lived out of a dependence on God?

What are you fighting for?

What are you fighting for?

Hero: "A Hero Endures and Fights On..."

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

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