

ENDURANCE

1 Chronicles 16:34 Common English Bible (CEB)

³⁴Give thanks to the LORD because he is good,
because his faithful love endures forever.

Bible researches are so much easier now with the computer. Could you imagine counting how many times a particular word was used back before the computer just let it type the question in the Google box? I did exactly that for the word “endure” to see how many times it appears in the Bible. To narrow down the possibilities, I also used only the King James Version.

The word “endure” appears 29 times in the Bible in the translation I used for my search. Because I used the King James Version, the word “endureth” appeared 59 times. Two other forms of the word also appeared, showing up 8 times was the word “endured” and “enduring” followed with 3 appearances.

What is the hardest thing that you have tried to endure? In exercise terms, how long can you run? How long can you hold a plank without collapsing? How long can you go without eating? In regards to life, how long can you go without being with your loved ones? Or even your friends? How long can you withstand pain? Endurance is hard. It doesn't matter if you are trying to run or overcome a bad situation.

Now let me ask you another question. How long do you think you could endure the pain that Jesus experienced on the cross? There are many of us that would say we could last a long time fighting the pain if it was a chance to save a member of our family. But Jesus didn't limit his pain to only his family. Or only to friends he had. Or even to only the ones that believed in him. He took the full brunt of that experience for everyone. That includes me and you, even when we fall way short on what he would like us to do. He did it for future generations that may or may not even accept him or believe in him.

Our focal passage tells us a couple of important things. 1 Chronicles 16:34 says “Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love endures forever.” This verse tells us that his love will always be there for us, no matter what because it is faithful and it will endure forever. But it also should remind us to give thanks to God for what he has done for us. We should have a grateful heart that constantly gives thanks to God. Let me challenge you to start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving for another day to make a difference in the world and end it with another prayer thanking God for the specific things he did for you that day.