

“Endurance”

2 Thes. 1:4-5

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

Recently my wife, Karen, attended a High School graduation. The Valedictorian was a young lady from Taiwan. Karen was moved by the speech this young lady made. She described coming to the United States when she was five years old. She couldn't speak English, and she and her family went through a lot of adversity. Now, here she was, graduating from High School at the top of her class. In honor and memory of the adversity she had endured, she quoted the 23rd Psalm in her native tongue. This young lady has a free ride to one of the most prestigious universities in our country. It sends chills down my spine just to think of this model of persistence.

Endurance—perseverance—is the prerequisite to success. I don't think over the long haul there's any way out of that. Therefore, pressure and adversity are a necessary part of the Christian journey.

That was the testimony of the church at Thessalonica. Listen to 2 Thessalonians chapter 1, verses 4 and 5; “Therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and inflictions which you endured. This is the plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God for which indeed you are suffering.”

In other words, the Apostle Paul says, “There you are. You've been through something, and you're still standing. Not only are you standing, but also you're rejoicing. You don't have a cheap faith. Your faith has been tried and proven because you've gone through.” Others are watching us as we handle adversity.

Here's what I want you to remember and do today. Don't quit. Please don't quit. The adversity will make you stronger, and if you hang in there, your victory will be sweet.