

# YET

by Eva Zarley

Do you ever have times when you think you must have somehow completely fallen from favor with God? Now, if you have habitually continued in a particular sin or sins, refusing to repent, it may very well be that God has withdrawn His presence for a season, because of your rebellion.

But what if you have done all you can to faithfully serve Him, YET, you feel the He has become silent and hardened to your pleas for help and mercy? Suppose you see people all around you, who are living selfishly and wickedly, all the while, enjoying the prosperity of this wicked nation, YET, you tithe and give generously to those in need, living a life of devotion to the Lord, praying over your expenditures and are financially sinking? Suppose you have fervently prayed for healing, for yourself or for others, believing in faith that the power of God would prevail, YET, sickness, pain and perhaps even death have appeared to have won the war.

Suppose you have proclaimed God's love and power, exuberantly singing "All His Promises Are Yes and Amen," to all who would listen, YET, you don't see those promises being fulfilled in your own life?

Perhaps a twinge of bitterness has crept into your soul and you have become weary of dutifully touting the praises of a God who doesn't really seem to come through at all, for you. Maybe you feel God has stood by, seemingly unmoved, and watched you slowly lose your grip on your faith. By sheer will power, you hang on to your faith by a slim thread, crying "JESUS HELP ME!" YET, no help seems to come.

What is going on????????????? Where is our God????????????? How long must we bravely try to encourage one another by saying "It's a wilderness experience?" I don't know about you, but I am beginning to think my "wilderness experience" is going to continue for a literal forty years. Could it really be that I am as stubborn and rebellious as those children of Israel, when I am trying so hard to live a life that aligns with God's word? I fail, yes— but not intentionally, and when I see my failure, I cry out in repentance. So why am I thrust into this endless "wilderness experience?"

I'd like to offer another explanation. It is the test of YET. It is a very important test and

the Church of today will endure it, as none of the saints of the past have ever endured it. Why? Because beloved, we are in the very last days. Spiritual battles are going on in the unseen realm, and the power of evil is stronger, than ever because it abounds everywhere around us. The enemy has surrounded God's children with the highest population of the wicked, in the entire history of the earth. The bloodthirsty spectators of the Roman Coliseum had nothing on the movie-goers and news-watchers of today. The media is obsessed with violence, sex and perversion, because their audience is fascinated by it. Beloved, I tell you it is going to get much worse, not better.

The Church is more lukewarm than ever, despite various "revivals" in the past few decades. That is because people get caught up in enjoying the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit, things like miracle healings, deliverances, and then off they go to continue their worldly lives. When it gets down to the nitty gritty of sharing in Christ sufferings, people shrink back and want none of that. Persecution wields its power over a cowering Bride. Just this week, a friend of mine was gently reprimanded by her "Christian" supervisor for saying things like, "God Bless You!" and "We're all made in God's image." to customers, whose religious beliefs she didn't know." Love for one another is waxing cold. Christians are falling like dominoes into temptation, their faith shipwrecked because they know not the strength of their enemy, so they become lax in wearing their armor, shield and especially their sword. (*The Bible*.) We are going to need the determination of the apostles, if we are to endure these perilous times.

It is because of this, that those who endure to the very end of time will be rewarded. Revelation 7:9-16 says:

**Rev 7:9** After these things I looked, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palms in their hands.

**Rev 7:10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God sitting on the throne, and to the Lamb.

**Rev 7:11** And all the angels stood around the throne, and the elders, and the four living creatures, and they fell before the throne on their faces and worshiped God,

**Rev 7:12** saying, Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.

**Rev 7:13** And one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes, and from where do they come?

**Rev 7:14** And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes, and have whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.

**Rev 7:15** Therefore they are before the throne of God, and they serve Him day and night in His temple. And He sitting on the throne will dwell among them.

**Rev 7:16** They will not hunger any more, nor thirst any more, nor will the sun light on them, nor any heat. (MKJV)

Many of God's people have been poisoned by living in a prosperous nation and hearing false, ear-tickling messages on prosperity. We get a different picture, if we look at the lives of Jesus and his apostles. The clearer picture from the word of truth is this:

**(1Pe 4:12)** Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (KJV)

**(1Peter 2:19-20)** God will bless you for this, if you endure the pain of undeserved suffering because you are conscious of his will. For what credit is there if you endure the beatings you deserve for having done wrong? But if you endure suffering even when you have done right, God will bless you for it. (GNB)

**(2Thesalonians 1:4-5)** That is why we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God. We boast about the way you continue to endure and believe through all the persecutions and sufferings you are experiencing. All of this proves that God's judgment is just and as a result you will become worthy of his Kingdom, for which you are suffering.

**(James 1:2-3)** My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure.

From these passages, we get an accurate understanding of what to expect, especially as the very end draws nearer. No servant is greater than his master. If we remain in Him, we will follow Christ, each to our own cross and each will cry out in perplexed pain, "My God, why have You forsaken me?" But after that dark hour, will come paradise, reward, honor and glory. Then we will understand, and we will joyfully give those things over to Him, knowing He alone is worthy. But as we share in His sufferings, we will partake of His rewards. The alternative is weeping and gnashing of teeth, for eternity. Mankind has made up other ideas of

what happens after this life. But no other scenario ever invented by man will prevail over what God has declared.

So let us do a reversal and speak those “YET s” another way. Though others prosper in their wickedness, YET, I will endure doing without, for the sake of the gospel. (You may lose your job.) Though He seems silent when I cry out to him, YET, I will endure and hope in His deliverance. (The journey may be tougher than you thought.) Though sickness and death seem to prevail, YET, I will say, “Grave where is your victory, Death, where is your sting?” Though I don’t always see His promises fulfilled in this carnal earth, YET, I will praise Him and trust Him to do what is best.

Therefore, encourage yourself, and one another, to endure to the end, knowing that this is not some strange thing happening to you. When I am striving with my daughter, trying to work the flesh out of her, (*and she does the same for me*) she often groans in protest, “Mom, you’re killing me!” And that is what we often cry to our God. “You’re killing me!” But would we want it any other way? He is cranking up the heat, pulling out the dross. He is killing that old man of flesh, who wants to control us. There is no other place to go. Christ, alone, has the words of life that transforms the human soul. So let us say with Job, “Though He kills me, YET, I will hope in Him. Let us walk in the strength and power of YET!”

**(1Pe 4:16) YET if *any man suffer as a Christian*, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. (KJV)**