

引言 INTRODUCTION

Patience is not a popular quality most people seek after. We have microwave ovens, instant-food and high-speed internet. The faster we get, the more impatient we become. A senior couple saw their doctor because they lost patience toward one another. Everything checked out to be fine. The doctor realized that forgetfulness was a cause for their conflict. He suggested to them to jot down notes to help them remember things. The couple were watching TV one evening after dinner. The husband stood up and walked toward the kitchen. His wife asked: “Where are you going?” “I just want to get some water.” The man answered. She requested, “Can you cut a slice of cake for me?” Her husband replied, “Sure!” The lady suggested, “Do you want to write it down?” The guy said, “Nah, how can I forget such a simple thing.” His wife continued, “Can you also add a few strawberries and whipped-cream at the top? Are you sure you don’t need to write it down?” The man was annoyed. He reacted: “No worries. I got it!” The husband did not return until 15 minutes later. He brought two fried eggs and some ham on a plate. The wife was a little upset. She asked: “Where is my toast?” We need patience when things do not turn out the way we have expected. In our passage today, James encourages people to be patient as they suffer injustice. Besides “patient” or “patience,” we also find the word “steadfast” or “steadfastness” in the text that shares a similar meaning. Patience has to do with the mentality. Patient people bear an offense without looking for an opportunity to pay back. Whereas, steadfastness is related to the goal. Steadfast people will not back down because they look forward to a good result. We will use the term “endurance” to summarize those words. James tells us that since God is in control, we can endure suffering.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 忍耐的表現 Expressions of Endurance

First, we see some expressions of endurance in the passage. James encourages his readers to pursue two things and avoid two other things. In verse 7, he tells people to work hard like a farmer. A farmer needs endurance before he will reap a harvest. He tills the ground, then sows seeds. Next, he has to wait for the rain to come. James mentions early and late rains. The early rain comes around October to November after planting. The late rain arrives between March and April when the crops mature. Rain is beyond a farmer’s forecast or control. Not enough rain, too much of it or rains at the wrong time can be detrimental. Israelites surely know that rain is God’s blessing. God tells them in Deuteronomy 11:13-14 – **13 “And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.”** Rain, along with food, fertility of animals and people and protection from enemies, are God’s blessings. The condition for all those gifts is obedience to God’s Word. People who obey God will thank Him when they have success. Other than working hard, James also reminds his readers to stand firm in their faith. Sometimes their good intentions may not lead to a favorable outcome. Non-believers may be taken advantage of them because they are gentle and kind.

People may lie to them or slander behind their back. They should stand firm even when they suffer. Apostle Peter gives the same advice in his letter. For example, 1 Peter 3:14-15 reads: **14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.** Some people may return harm for good. They may think that believers are naïve and dumb. But a few of them will ask why we do not turn bitter or strike back. That may open up a gospel conversation. Working hard in our duties and standing up for our faith are the two things we should do. James then tells us two other things we should avoid. In verse 9, he asks us not to grumble against one another. In Exodus, God sent Moses to Pharaoh and asked him to let the Israelites leave Egypt. The king denied the request. Why would he allow a multitude of slave labors to go freely? In return, Pharaoh asked the foremen to increase the demands on the Israelites. They then grumbled to Moses: "It's all your fault!" In addition to not grumbling, James also tells people not to take any oath in verse 12. At that time, people swore by God's name to affirm that they were telling the truth. We are required to do the same thing in court. James is not against taking an oath. He is saying that we do not need to do so if we are being honest. James quotes Jesus' teaching by saying: **let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no.** Just say what you mean, and mean what you say. People will believe your words if they feel that you are a truthful person. Saying things in a godly manner is consistent with James' lessons throughout the book. Regardless of the circumstances or people's reactions, we should do what God sees as right. That is why we need endurance while waiting for the results. Work hard on the tasks God assigns to you, and stand firm in your faith. Perhaps you do not see any progress yet in your studies, career, efforts spent on your kids or church ministries. Just remain faithful and diligent. God will bless your hard work in due time.

2. 忍耐的榜樣 Examples of Endurance

We express endurance through positive actions. Also, we can learn from others' examples of endurance. James brings up two examples. First, there are prophets. We can use Jeremiah as a representative. Like other prophets did, Jeremiah spoke about God's judgment and future hope. Jeremiah pleaded for people to repent. They worshipped idols, oppressed the poor and twisted justice in court. Jeremiah also told people to surrender to Babylon because there would be 70 years' of exile. But God would bring them back afterward. The king got mad. He torn the scroll on which God's message was written and burned it. He would rather believe in the empty hope from false prophets. Eventually, Babylon defeated Judah. Why did prophets convey God's words even when no one wanted to listen? First, it was a command from God. Second, the audience could not excuse that there was no warning when God's judgment finally came. The prophet expresses his feelings in Jeremiah 20:8-9: **8 For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. 9 If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.** Nowadays people embrace the health and wealth gospel but shut their ears to a call for repentance. People may hate us because they hate God. Our task is to tell the truth. God will protect us. Besides the prophets, another example of endurance is Job. He was a righteous man. He suffered for no apparent reason. Job 1:9-11 shows us a rare scene: **9 Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? 10 Have you not put a hedge around him**

and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” God allowed Satan to attack Job. As a result, Job lost everything overnight – his ten children and all his animals. But he remained faithful to God. The devil went to God a second time. God gave Satan permission to hurt Job as long as he did not take his life. Hence, Job had painful sores all over his body. His wife suggested him to curse God and commit suicide. Later, Job’s three friends came to see him. Their consolation turned into condemnation. Here is their logic: Since God blesses us when we obey Him, misfortunes must be His punishment for our sins. Those words are like adding salt to wounds. Finally, God showed up. He rebuked the three friends for their false accusation. God also reminded Job of His power and wisdom. In the end, God compensated Job for his losses. James wraps up Job’s story by saying in verse 11: **...the Lord is compassionate and merciful.** God is good and He shows kindness to His children. No one can fully know His plans. He invites us to trust Him even when things do not make sense. Examples of endurance are helpful in our suffering. Obeying God does not exempt us from hardship. Do not fall into the ditch of self-pity. Even when no one understands your feelings, God does. The world worships success, but few people ask what it takes to get there. Recently, a professional baseball player says: “Boring leads to brilliance.” Conditioning exercises and regular practice are tedious and gruesome. But there will not be good performance in games without them. We need endurance especially when there seems to be no end to our suffering. You may be struggling from a chronic illness, an undesirable relationship or criticism instead of appreciation for your efforts. Do not give up. Keep your poise. God is on your side.

3. 忍耐中盼望 Expectations in Endurance

Expressions of endurance prove our faith in God. Examples of endurance encourage us when we suffer. Expectations in endurance keep us going as we look forward to a bright future. There will be an end to our sufferings. Both verses 7 and 8 say the Lord is coming. All the conditions for Jesus’ return are ready. Prophecies about His earthly life had all been fulfilled. Jesus’ resurrection and ascension initiate the final chapter of the salvation plan. Verse 9 describes Jesus as the judge standing at the door. He will return to judge the world. There are two judgments in the Bible. First, there will be a sentencing for non-believers. They will be condemned and will forever be separated from God. There will be unending torment, and there will be no second chance and no hope. Then there will be a different judgment for believers. It will be more like an award ceremony. God will give each person various rewards depending on their faithfulness in the world. The return of Jesus is a great news to those who suffer for their faith. Throughout history, many of them were persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and even died for their belief. One day God will right all the wrongs. It has been over 2,000 years since the Lord made His promise. Will He come back? Absolutely! Apostle Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 3:9-10 – **9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.** Let us highlight a few things. First, Jesus has yet to appear not because there is a delay. He is giving seekers more time to repent. Those who do not know Jesus must accept Him soon. Second, Jesus’ arrival will be like a thief sneaking in. He will come suddenly and catch many people off-guard. But Christians

must stay alert. Jesus told us that there will be signs leading to His return. They include major natural disasters. There will also be conflicts and even wars between nations. Moreover, people will turn cold to the truth and they will go after false religions. Jesus said the frequency and intensity of those events will increase as His return is getting near. But at the same time, the gospel will continue to spread. Third, God will destroy the world with fire. In Noah's time, God wiped out all living things with a flood. In the future, He will use fire to cleanse the world. Peter has more insights in verses 11-13: **11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.** After this temporary world is consumed, God will usher His people to an everlasting home. It will be a perfect place. God's righteousness will rule over it. There will be no more sin, sickness and separation. Peter urges us to get ready for it. We should live like heavenly citizens in this world. We conduct a holy and godly life. Our good behavior will attract people to Jesus. Since all our earthly treasures will be destroyed in fire, that should change our perspective on money, material possessions and achievements. We still do our best in school, at work and at home. The goal is not to serve ourselves. Rather, we serve God by serving others. We can look at gain and loss lightly, knowing that God's eternal reward is much better and long-lasting than what the world can offer.

結論 CONCLUSION

We can endure suffering since God is in control. In our human nature, we try to avoid suffering. The world persuades us to indulge in comfort and convenience. However, Jesus never guarantees us a smooth-sailing as we follow Him. Quite the contrary! Doing right things sometimes may lead to unpleasant results. In 2019, an elementary school in Florida asked students to dress to support their favorite colleges. A fourth-grade boy, let us just call him Tyler, loves the University of Tennessee. He came up with an idea to make his own T-shirt. He drew "UT" on a piece of paper, then pinned it to an orange shirt. He was very excited to show it in school. Unfortunately, some girls made fun of Tyler's design during lunch. His teacher, Laura Snyder, noticed that Tyler returned to the classroom in tears. She decided to do something. She bought a UT shirt for Tyler. She also shared the matter on the social media, asking people who have connection with the college to do something special for Tyler. School officials caught the attention. The associate athletic director of UT sent a "Proud Pack" to the elementary school. There were shirts, caps, notes from staff and a football signed by the head coach in it. That was not the end of the story! The school decided to make T-shirts based on Tyler's design. Part of the proceeds would be donated to an anti-bullying foundation. In the end, over 100,000 shirts were sold and almost a million dollars were raised. UT also guaranteed a four-year scholarship to Tyler when he graduates from high school. We all love a story with such a happy ending. However, there may not be sunshine and rainbows at the end of every storm in life. When Jesus died on the cross, no one in their right mind would say that it could amount to anything good. But God had intended to turn a tragedy into a blessing. Today, God may not protect us in a shield. But He strengthens us by His Spirit. By putting our faith in Him will produce endurance in us.

引言 INTRODUCTION

耐性並不是大多數人追求的素質。我們有微波爐、快速食品 and 高速網路。我們越想要更快，就越沒有耐性。一對老年夫婦因為對方缺乏耐性而去看醫生。一切檢查都正常。醫生發現健忘是他們衝突的起因，因此他建議他們把事情寫下來作為提醒。一天晚上，那對夫婦在吃完飯後看電視。丈夫忽然站起身走向廚房。太太問他：「你要去哪裡？」先生回答：「我要去倒一點水。」太太要求：「你能為我切一塊蛋糕嗎？」丈夫回答說：「沒問題！」女士建議：「你要不要把它寫下來？」先生說：「不需要，這麼簡單的事情我怎麼會忘記呢！」老婆繼續說：「請你在蛋糕上面加幾個草莓和奶油。你確定不用記下來嗎？」老公有點不耐煩。他回答說：「不用擔心。我會記住的！」結果他 15 分鐘之後才回來。他拿著一個盤子，上面有兩個煎蛋和一片火腿。妻子有點不高興。她問：「我的吐司在哪裡？」當事情沒有達到我們預期的結果時，我們需要耐性。在我們今天的經文中，雅各鼓勵人們在遭受不公正時要忍耐。在希臘文中有兩個相關的用詞，在中文聖經都被翻譯為「忍耐」。其中一個字和心態有關。能忍耐的人甘願忍受冒犯，而不尋找報復的機會。另外一個字是與目標有關。能忍耐的人不會退縮，因為他們期待一個美好的結果。雅各以這段經文告訴我們，因為神掌管一切，因此我們能夠忍受苦難。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 忍耐的表現 Expressions of Endurance

首先，我們在經文中看到一些忍耐的表現。雅各鼓勵他的讀者追求兩件事情並避免另外兩件事情。在第 7 節中，他告訴人們要像農夫一樣努力工作。農夫需要忍耐才能有收成。他耕地，然後播種。接下來，他要等待下雨。雅各提到了秋雨和春雨。秋雨是在撒種後，大約十月至十一月間出現。春雨是在三月和四月之間下的，那時農作物快要成熟。農夫無法預測或控制什麼時候下雨。雨水不足、太多或是在不適當的時候下都會造成損害。以色列人知道雨水是神的祝福。神在申命記 11:13-14 中告訴他們：13 「你們若留意聽從我今日所吩咐的誡命，愛耶和華你們的神，盡心盡性事奉他，14 他必按時降秋雨春雨在你們的地上，使你們可以收藏五穀、新酒，和油。」雨水、食物、動物和人們的生育，以及免於敵人的攻擊都是神的祝福。得到這些賞賜的條件是聽從神的話。順服神的人會在獲得成就時感謝神。除了努力工作之外，雅各還提醒讀者要堅守自己的信仰。有時他們的好意不一定帶來正面的結果。非信徒可能會因為他們溫柔和善良而佔他們便宜。人們可能會對他們撒謊，或在背後毀謗他們。就算遭遇苦難，他們也應該堅定立場。使徒彼得在他的書

信中也給了同樣的教導。例如，彼得前書 3:14-15 說：**14 你們就是為義受苦，也是有福的。不要怕人的威嚇，也不要驚慌；15 只要心裡尊主基督為聖。有人問你們心中盼望的緣由，就要常作準備，以溫柔、敬畏的心回答各人。**有些人可能會以惡報善。他們可能認為信徒是天真和愚蠢的。但是有些人可能會問，為什麼我們不反擊。這也許會開始一段福音的對話。努力工作和堅守信仰是我們該做的兩件事。然後雅各告訴我們另外兩件我們應該避免的事情。在第 9 節中，他要求我們不要彼此埋怨。在出埃及記中，神派摩西去見法老王，請求他讓以色列人離開埃及。王拒絕了請求。他為何允許大批奴隸自由離開？作為回應，法老要求工頭增加以色列人的工作量。於是他們便向摩西埋怨：「這都是你的錯！」除了不要埋怨之外，雅各在第 12 節還告訴人們不要起誓。當時，人們以神的名起誓，證明自己說真話。我們在法庭上也必須做同樣的事情。雅各並不反對宣誓。他說如果我們誠實的話就根本不需要發誓。雅各引用了耶穌的教導：**你們說話，是，就說是；不是，就說不是。**我們必須要心口合一。如果人們覺得你是一個誠實的人，他們就會相信你的話。以真誠的方式說話與雅各在整卷書中所傳達的信息是一致的。在任何情況下，無論別人的反應如何，我們都應該做神認為正確的事。因此我們需要忍耐等待結果。你只要努力做好神給你的任務，堅定你的信仰。也許你在學業、事業、為孩子花的心思或教會事工方面還沒有看到任何進展。只要保持忠心和勤奮，神會在適當的時候祝福你的努力。

2. 忍耐的榜樣 Examples of Endurance

我們透過積極的行動來表現出忍耐。此外，我們也可以從別人忍耐的榜樣中學習。雅各舉了兩個榜樣。首先，有先知。我們可以用耶利米作為代表。像其他先知一樣，耶利米宣講神的審判和將來的盼望。耶利米勸告人們悔改。他們敬拜偶像，壓迫窮人，並在法庭上歪曲公義。耶利米也呼籲人們向巴比倫投降，因為他們將被擄 70 年。但神隨後會把他們帶回家鄉。王聽到之後很生氣。他把信息的書卷割破並燒毀。他寧願相信假先知的空洞盼望。結果，巴比倫打敗了猶大。為什麼先知傳達神的話語，縱使沒有人願意聽？首先，那是神的命令。第二，當神的審判最終來臨時，聽眾不能藉口說沒有預先收到警告。先知在耶利米書 20:8-9 抒發他的情感：**8 「我每逢講論的時候，就發出哀聲，我喊叫說：有強暴和毀滅！因為耶和華的話終日成了我的凌辱、譏刺。9 我若說：我不再提耶和華，也不再奉他的名講論，我便心裡覺得似乎有燒著的火閉塞在我骨中，我就含忍不住，不能自禁。」**如今，人們喜歡聽健康與財富的福音，卻拒絕悔改的呼喚。人們可能會討厭我們，因為他們憎惡神。我們的任務是傳講真理。神會保護我們的。除了先知之外，另一個忍耐的榜樣是約伯。他是一個正直的人。他無緣無故地受苦。約伯記 1:9-11 向我們展示了一個罕見的場景：**9 撒但回答耶和華說：「約伯敬畏神，豈是無故呢？10 你豈不是四面圍上籬笆圍護他和他的家，並他一切所有的嗎？他手所做的都蒙你賜福；他的家產也在地上增多。11 你且伸手毀他一切所有的；他必當面棄掉你。」**神允許撒

旦攻擊約伯。結果，約伯一夜之間失去了一切，包括十個兒女和所有的牲畜。但他仍然對神忠誠。魔鬼第二次來到神面前。神允許撒旦傷害約伯，只要他不奪走約伯的性命。因此，約伯渾身生瘡。他的太太建議他咒詛神並自殺。後來，約伯的三個朋友來看他。他們的安慰變成了責備。他們的邏輯是：當我們順服神之時祂便祝福我們，那麼不幸一定是祂對我們犯罪的懲罰。這些話等於在傷口上撒鹽。最終，神出現了。祂責備三個朋友的誣告。神也提醒約伯祂的力量和智慧。事後，神補償了約伯的損失。雅各在第 11 節中總結了約伯的故事：**...明顯主是滿心憐憫，大有慈悲。**神是美善的，祂對祂的兒女顯出恩慈。沒有人能夠完全明白神的計劃。神邀請我們相信祂，縱使有時候事情看來沒有道理。忍耐的榜樣幫助我們克服痛苦。順服神並不能使我們免受苦難，因此不要陷在自憐的深淵。就算沒有人知道你的感受，但是神能夠完全理解。世人崇拜成功，但很少人問到底需要付出多少努力才能達到那個地步。最近，一位職業棒球運動員說：「乏味的練習可以帶來輝煌的成績。」體能訓練和常規練習既枯燥又難受。但如果沒有這些練習，比賽時就不會有好的表現。我們需要忍耐，尤其是當我們的痛苦似乎沒有盡頭的時候。你可能正在面對一些困難的掙扎，也許是慢性疾病、不理想的人際關係或是別人對你的努力只有批評但是沒有讚賞。不要放棄，繼續努力，神站在你那邊。

3. 忍耐中盼望 Expectations in Endurance

忍耐的表現證明了我們對神的信心。當我們遇到苦難時，忍耐的榜樣能夠激勵我們。第三方面，忍耐中的盼望促使我們繼續往前，因為我們期待美好的將來。我們的苦難終於會結束。第 7 和第 8 節都提到主的再來。耶穌回來的一切條件都已準備好了。關於祂在世上生活的預言都已全部應驗。耶穌的復活和升天啟動了救贖計畫的最後一步。第 9 節將耶穌形容為站在門口的法官。祂將回來審判世界。聖經裡有兩次審判。首先，神要審判非信徒。他們將被定罪並永遠與神分離。他們會接受無盡的折磨，沒有第二次機會，也沒有盼望。信徒將會面對不同的審判，情形比較像一場頒獎典禮。神會根據每個人在世上的忠誠給予不同的獎賞。耶穌的再來對那些因信仰而受苦的人來說是一個好消息。歷史上，許多人因信仰而遭受迫害、監禁、虐待，甚至死亡。有一天，神會更新一切。主作出承諾已經過了 2000 多年了。祂會回來嗎？必然的！使徒彼得在彼得後書 3:9-10 告訴我們：**9 主所應許的尚未成就，有人以為他是耽延，其實不是耽延，乃是寬容你們，不願有一人沉淪，乃願人人都悔改。10 但主的日子要像賊來到一樣。那日，天必大有響聲廢去，有形質的都要被烈火銷化，地和其上的物都要燒盡了。**讓我們思考幾方面的事情。首先，耶穌還沒有回來並不是因為有延遲。祂要給福音朋友更多時間去悔改。那些還沒有信耶穌的人必須趕快接受祂。第二，耶穌的再來會像賊偷偷溜進來一樣。主會忽然回來，讓很多人措手不及。但基督徒必須保持警醒。耶穌說過，祂回來之前將會有一些預兆，包括嚴重的自然災害、國家之間的衝突，甚至戰爭。此外，人們會對真理變得冷淡，他們寧願跟隨虛假的宗教。耶穌強調，隨著祂回來的臨近，這些事情會

越來越頻密和嚴重。但同時，福音會繼續傳播。第三，神將用火毀滅世界。在挪亞的時代，神用洪水毀滅了所有生物。將來，祂會用火來潔淨世界。彼得在 11-13 節中有進一步的信息：**11 這一切既然都要如此銷化，你們為人該當怎樣聖潔，怎樣敬虔，12 切切仰望神的日子來到。在那日，天被火燒就銷化了，有形質的都要被烈火鎔化。13 但我們照他的應許，盼望新天新地，有義居在其中。**在這個短暫的世界被毀滅之後，神將帶領祂的子民進入永恆的家園。那將會是一個完美的地方。神的公義將會實現。不再有罪惡、疾病和分離。彼得勸告我們要做好準備。我們應該以天上國民的心態活在這個世界。我們過聖潔而敬虔的生活。我們的好行為會吸引人們相信耶穌。由於我們世上的財富都將被火摧毀，因此我們對金錢、物質和成就的看法要有所改變。我們仍然在學校、工作場所和家裡盡好本份。我們的目標不是為自己而活。我們乃是透過服事別人來服事神。我們可以輕看得與失，因為我們知道神永恆的獎賞比世界所能給予的一切更美好、更持久。

結論 CONCLUSION

我們能夠忍受苦難，因為神掌管一切。基於人的本性，我們盡量避免受苦。世界鼓勵我們追求舒服和方便。然而，耶穌從來沒有保證跟隨祂的人會一帆風順。恰恰相反！做正確的事情有時候可能會導致不愉快的結果。2019 年，佛羅裡達州的一所小學鼓勵學生穿他們最喜歡的大學的衣服。一個四年級的男孩，我們就叫他泰勒吧，他熱愛田納西州大學。他想出一個主意，製作自己的衣服。他在一張紙上畫了“UT”，然後把它釘在一件橙色的衣服上。他非常興奮能在學校展示它。很可惜，在午餐時一些女孩嘲笑泰勒的設計。他的老師 **Laura Snyder** 注意到泰勒哭著回到教室。她決定採取行動。她買了一件 UT 的衣服給泰勒。她還在社交媒體上分享這件事情，並請求與大學有聯繫的人為泰勒做一些特別的事情。學校官員也有注意到消息。體育部的副主任寄了一個包裹到那所小學，裡面有衣服、帽子、員工寫的信和教練簽名的足球。故事還沒有結束！大學決定根據泰勒的設計製作衣服，部分收入捐給反對欺負學生的基金會。結果，一共賣出超過 10 萬件衣服，收集了接近一百萬美元的捐款。大學也保證泰勒高中畢業後將獲得四年的獎學金。我們都喜歡這樣美好結局的故事。然而，人生的每一場風暴過後，未必一定會出現陽光和彩虹。當耶穌死在十字架上時，沒有一個頭腦清醒的人會說那會帶來什麼好的結果。但神卻定意將悲劇變為祝福。今天，神可能不會用盾牌保護我們，但祂透過聖靈堅固我們。藉著我們對神的信心，使我們在裡面產生忍耐。