**Sermon Notes**

**Title:** *Enduring Faithfully for Eternal Reward*
**Texts:** James 1:12; Revelation 2:10
**Big Idea:** Perseverance is not just survival — it’s **preparation** for reward.

**Introduction**

* John Stephen Akhwari: *“My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race; they sent me 5,000 miles to Finish the race.”*
* God calls us not just to start the Christian life, but to **finish** faithfully.

**1. The Blessing in Endurance (James 1:12)**

* *“Blessed is the man who Endures under trial.”*
* **Blessed** = deep, God-given favor and joy.
* **Endures** = to remain under pressure without giving up.
* Trials are not interruptions; they are instruments for maturity.

**Story:** *Joni Eareckson Tada* — paralyzed at 17; daily faithfulness turned suffering into ministry.

**Life Application:**

* Ask: not “How do I get out?” but “What does God want to do in me?”
* Every act of obedience under trial = proof of your love for Christ.

**2. The Crown of Life (Revelation 2:10)**

* Jesus: *“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*
* “Crown” = victor’s wreath; symbol of eternal life with God.
* Trials may be severe but always temporary in time; reward is forever.

**Story:** *21 Coptic Martyrs (2015)* — refused to deny Christ, died with *“Lord Jesus Christ”* on their lips.

**Life Application:**

* Name your Cost: what would faithfulness cost you?
* Trade short-term ease for long-term joy.

**3. The Faithfulness That Overcomes**

* 1 John 5:4 – *“This is the victory… our faith.”*
* Rev 12:11 – Overcome by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.
* Faithfulness = Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, Choose obedience.

**Story:** *Daniel Ritchie* — born without arms; overcame despair through Christ; now ministers globally.

**Life Application:**

* Daily “yes” to Jesus = daily overcoming.
* Remember: Weakness + faith = God’s Grace.

**Conclusion**

* God promises eternal reward to those who endure faithfully.
* Picture the day when Jesus places the Crown of life on your head and says, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.”*

**This Week’s Challenges:**

1. Memorize James 1:12 or Revelation 2:10.
2. Choose one “costly yes” of obedience.
3. Share one testimony of how God has helped you endure.