

Quotes and Scriptures From Tough Stuff By Kim Mack, CSW

Enduring to the end is not just a matter of passively tolerating life's difficult circumstances or 'hanging in there.' Ours is an active religion, helping God's children along the strait and narrow path to develop their full potential during this life and return to Him one day. Viewed from this perspective, enduring to the end is exalting and glorious, not grim and gloomy. This is a joyful religion, one of hope, strength, and deliverance. 'Adam fell that men might be; men are, that they might have joy' (2 Nephi 2: 25).

Enduring to the end is a process filling every minute of our life, every hour, every day, from sunrise to sunrise. (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Have We Not Reason to Rejoice?" Ensign, November 2007, 18-21)

When we come to understand not only who we are but who we have always been – and therefore who we may become – the choice between following Christ or embracing the world is really no choice at all. (Sheri Dew, No Doubt About It)

No matter our age, circumstances, or abilities, each one of us can create something remarkable of his life.

David saw himself as a shepherd, but the Lord saw him as a king of Israel. Joseph of Egypt served as a slave, but the Lord saw him as a seer. Mormon wore the armor of a soldier, but the Lord saw him as a prophet.

We are sons and daughters of an immortal, loving, and all powerful Father in Heaven. We are created as much from the dust of eternity as we are from the dust of the earth. Every one of us has potential we can scarcely imagine (Joseph B. Wirthlin, "The Abundant Life," Ensign, May 2006, 99-102).

"Everyone runs the risk of fear. For a moment in Moses' confrontation with the adversary, 'Moses began to fear exceedingly; and as he began to fear, he saw the

bitterness of Hell.’ That’s when you see it – when you are afraid.” (Jeffrey R. Holland, “Cast Not Away Therefore Your Confidence”, Ensign, March 2000, 7).

At... moments of crisis and challenge, some choose to abandon faith just at the time when it most needs to be embraced. Prayer is ignored at the very hour when it needs to be intensified. Virtue is carelessly tossed aside when it needs to be cherished. God is forsaken in the all-too-human yet mistaken fear that He has forsaken us.

The truth is that our only safety, our only security, our only hope is to hold fast to that which is good. As the mists of darkness gather around us, we are only lost if we choose to let go of the iron rod, which is the word of God (David S. Baxter, “Faith, Services Constancy,” Ensign, Nov 2006, 13-15).

“When He is challenged, Satan is angry, as he was with Moses. He cried with a loud voice, trembled, and shook, and he departed from Moses who was resolute. There was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth as he departed from Moses. There was nothing else for him to do. He has to leave when you say, ‘Depart from me, Satan.’ Every soul who has mortality is stronger than Satan, if that soul is determined.” (Spencer W. Kimball, “The Blessings and Responsibilities of Womanhood,” Ensign, March 1976, 70)

Laman and Lemuel did not realize either that a loving God will inevitably be a tutoring Father, who wants His children to be truly happy and to come home. Not understanding God’s “dealings” sufficiently, Laman and Lemuel missed the most important attribute of God’s character – His love! Thus their murmuring was a symptom of a pathetic pathology. (Neal A. Maxwell, “Lessons from Laman and Lemuel,” Ensign, Nov. 1999, 6)

Your Heavenly Father knows you and loves you and wants to help you return to Him. Your life on Earth is part of His plan for you to gain a body, learn, grow, and find Joy. Sometimes life is hard, lonely, or frightening, but your Heavenly Father is always there. He sorrows when you suffer and rejoices when you do what is right. He wants to communicate with you as you sincerely pray to Him, and He stands ready to give you comfort, peace, and guidance in your life. (Mormon.org)

I bear personal witness this day of a personal, living God, who knows our names, hears and answers prayers, and cherishes us eternally as children of His spirit. I testify that amidst the wondrously complex tasks inherent in the universe, He seeks our individual happiness and safety above all other godly concerns... and in the words of that prophet [Joseph Smith] I, too, declare: "Our Heavenly Father is more liberal in His views, and boundless in His mercies and blessings, than we are ready to believe or receive." (Jeffrey R. Holland, "The grandeur of God," Ensign, Nov. 2003, 70)

I testify to you that our promised blessings are beyond measure. Though the storm clouds may gather, though the rains may pour down upon us, our knowledge of the gospel and our love of our Heavenly Father and of our Savior will comfort and sustain us and bring joy to our hearts as we walk uprightly and keep the commandments. There will be nothing in this world that can defeat us.

My beloved brothers and sisters fear not. Be of good cheer. The future is bright as your faith (Thomas S Monson, "Be of Good Cheer," Ensign, May 2009, 89-92)

Alma 9:26

John 8: 10-11

John 4

Doctrine & Covenants 98:6

Moroni 1: 2-3

Alma 22:18

Moses 1: 10-2