Endurance

(A lesson from the life of the Cancer Soldier)

Article by Josue Ruiz



"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love." Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

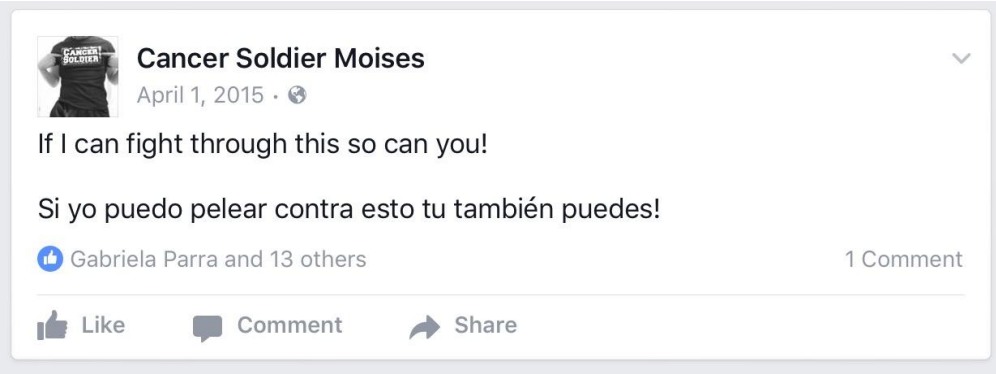
Without a doubt Moises Ruiz had high levels of endurance like many cancer soldiers around the world. He withstood intense leg pain both before and after his amputation. He endured long sessions of chemotherapy, hospital appointments, other treatments etc. But most importantly his faith endured until the end. He never gave up on God and his faith was firm. Enduring the trials and problems of life is like exercising to develop your muscles. The more you endure exercises and drills (like soldiers conditioning for war) the stronger you become. The same way when our faith is tested and we endure, our faith becomes stronger, we learn and mature.

"Throughout 2013 I fell a lot with my crutches and prosthetic, but do I lay on the ground and cry about it? No, I get back up on my feet and walk. With pain but I walk! If you guys fall, I'll pick you up and walk with you. But do not give up, this world needs strong people. Be strong because if I can walk, why can't you?" – Moises 2/7/2014

Throughout the Bible we are encouraged to endure in our sufferings because they won't last long when compared to the beauty of life in heaven. (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Also, as children of God, we may need to be disciplined by our heavenly father and so we must endure that as well because it will be for our benefit in the long run! (Hebrews 12:5-7)

Having endurance doesn't always apply to pain and suffering. Sometimes it can be for doing good works and selfless deeds for long periods of time! (Galatians 6:9)



But we must not stop doing good because that too will help us in developing endurance when it comes to helping others. Parents grow weary when taking care of their children, but they won't stop feeding or protecting them no matter how tired they are right? And so, we may get tired of volunteering or teaching etc. but what's important is to not quit, rest yes, but do not stop doing good completely.

Endurance can also be gained through support and encouragement from others, especially from God. He doesn't want us to give up, and as long as we *try* sincerely, He will help us overcome.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne." Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)