
Netzach of Netzach – Endurance of Endurance

Our Father in heaven we have come together before you and bow our heads in worshipping you. We rejoice in your commandments, statutes, and judgments – your word that you have given us. Please bless the study of your word as we study today, pour out your Spirit on your people everywhere. Help us to focus on your coming kingdom and overcoming as we count the Omer which you have commanded. Help us to do those things pleasing in your sight, to glorify and serve you, to love one another and continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ that we might endure to the end and be in your coming kingdom. Inspire the words, the thoughts and the hearing as we study to become more perfect and thoroughly equipped to every good work to serve you. Thank you for your promises, the blessings you give us day by day and week by week. Blessed be your name forever and ever. In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen!

Today is the fourth day of the fourth week and the 25th day of the Omer count (Sefirat Ha'Omer). We have been commanded to count the Omer in Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16 of the Bible. We number the weeks and the days. Each of the seven weeks is dedicated to examining and refining one of the seven emotional attributes of the seven basic emotions that make up the spectrum of human experience. At the root of all forms of enslavement, is a distortion of these emotions. Each of the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot is dedicated to examining and refining one of them.

Enduring is vital to our overcoming. Christ said to his disciples in the Mt. Olivet prophecy “But he who endures to the end shall be saved (Matthew 24:13). Conversely, he who does not endure to the end will not be saved. We need to look at this from both viewpoints so that we are sure to get the message—*we must endure to the end*. I get letters repeatedly from prisoners and others who have been *deceived* by this world's Christianity. I could call it Satan's Christianity because his perversion has corrupted this world and the world today is full of it. The majority of ministers in the world are preaching lies (smooth things)—deceit as written in Isaiah **30:1**—“Woe to the rebellious children, says the LORD who take counsel, but not of me, and who devise plans, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin.” Today, the teaching of the world says you do not have to endure to the end and that all you have to do is believe and you will be saved once you profess Christ. Apostle Paul says in **Philippians 2:12** —“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ **for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**” It is God's Holy Spirit that works in us to accomplish and perform what is right.

What Paul has written is scripture and is inspired of God. The scriptures have authority. That means that there are works in salvation. **2 Timothy 3:16**—“**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” **2 Peter 3:15**—“Consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in

all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.” We must strive to overcome and be aware that we could fall away. There is always the possibility that we could be dragged away by deception of “convenient” teaching.

Christ says to the churches in **Revelation 3:5**—*Sardis*—“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” *Philadelphia* – ¹¹“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹²He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God. And I will write on him my new name.” This means, overcoming all obstacles, everything that gets in the way that would hinder us from enduring to the end.

Christ gives this final message to the church about **netzach** (endurance and overcoming) in **Revelation 21:6-8**—“And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things and **I will be his God and he shall be my son.**” In the Greek “shall inherit all things” means the universe, all things that God has created will be inherited and become the possession and property to be administered by the children of God, those who overcome and are resurrected who will be in the kingdom of God and will rule over the universe. They will be God’s sons even as Christ is God’s son. ⁸“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death.” If we want to be in God’s kingdom, brethren, we must endure to the end, not just part way.

My old computer was having problems, so yesterday after setting up the new computer, I went online and used Google search engine to find our website, Triumphpro.com on the Internet. Along with that information page was a variety of related items. I have a lot of critics, one of which called me a false prophet and liar leading people astray. I continue to tell people to prove all things. Read the Bible and check it out. If I am teaching the Bible truth, and you take the time to open the Bible and make the effort to study it, you will find out who is a liar and who is not a liar if you pray to God and ask Him to see his truth. God is faithful, he will show you. If I am telling the truth, then I am a messenger of truth. The Apostle Paul warns us about the dangers of being led astray and says in **Hebrews 10: 22-25**—“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope *without wavering*, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” God wants us to exhort one another and stir up love. We do not do this by withdrawing, and removing ourselves from assembling together. Encourage each other—that is outgoing LOVE.

We all have a lot to overcome. Be patient, forgiving and love one another by getting rid of the hostility and the self-righteousness. Surrender and submit yourselves to God, his law and his love. God will reward us according to our works. There is no exception to that. Yes, we CAN have faith. We can understand God’s word and his commandments. We do not have to be

deceived and led astray. We can prove all things—the difference between right and wrong, clean and unclean. **We can** do all things by hearkening to the word of God. **Philippians 4:13**—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” **Psalms 119:11**—“Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against you.” Are we hiding God’s word in our hearts? Are we studying the scriptures faithfully? If we want to be in God’s kingdom, we have to overcome the flesh and everything that holds us back and study the word of God. **2 Timothy 2:15**—“Study (be diligent) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **James 1:2**—“Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

Hebrews 10:26-39—“If we sin willfully after we receive the knowledge of the truth of God there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.” **Verse 29**—“Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The LORD will judge His people.’ ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” We will have to be judged by God and condemned by him, if we have not been paying attention, listening, learning, overcoming, enduring, and faithfully obeying Him. Paul was serving God faithfully even though he was in prison and chained.

Paul recounts the endurance of believers who joyfully experienced great struggle with sufferings, reproaches and tribulations, and loss of personal possessions knowing with confidence that they had a better and an enduring possession of great reward with God—putting their treasures above in heaven, not on earth. “Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.” We have need of endurance for if we endure (keep on keeping on) as the word *netzach* means, there is great reward. This is overcoming multiplied and squared so to speak—never giving up or led astray and departing from the faith. **Hebrews 10:38**—“**the just shall live by faith**; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” Does Paul mean himself? No. “But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” Paul is quoting from the Old Testament. **Habakkuk 2:3-4**—“For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. ⁴ But the just shall live by his faith.”

1 Timothy 6:12—“Fight the good fight of faith, **lay hold on eternal life**, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” We are not to give up for any reason. I would rather die first than give up, because I count the kingdom of God of greater value than anything—anything this world has to offer. **Malachi 4:1-3**—“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the LORD of hosts, “That will leave them neither root nor branch.² but to you who fear my name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. ³ You shall trample

the wicked, they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this, says the LORD of hosts.”

In a very special way, James is talking about the end-time generation because of the sins of the rich and the wealthy— the rich and super-rich, individuals, millionaires, international business corporations, bankers, and plutocrats on Wall Street. **James 5:1-12** —“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure **in the last days**. ⁴Indeed, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out. And the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.” We are living in the last days and this is what people of this world have been doing. ⁷“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. ⁸You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹*Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!* ¹⁰My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. ¹¹Indeed we count them blessed who endure. **You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.**”

An outstanding story from the American Revolutionary War days is told of American patriot John Paul Jones, a Scottish sailor and the United States' first well-known naval fighter in the American Revolution, as Captain of the burning and sinking ship Bonhomme Richard he uttered, according to his first lieutenant, the legendary reply to a taunt about surrender and attempt to board his ship from the British captain Pearson of the Serapis **"I have not yet begun to fight!"** Attempt by the British to board Bonhomme Richard was thwarted, Captain Pearson surrendered, and the Bonhomme Richard's crew was transferred to other vessels before it sank. Jones took command of the Serapis.

Even when it looks hopeless and impossible, we are to endure. At the end of your rope tie a knot in it and don't let go. Keep hanging on with all your strength until you die. Establish your heart for the coming of the Lord is coming closer. We are all going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. May he say to you and me and all of us, “well done good and faithful servant for you have endured (remained faithful) to the end. Enter now into the joy of your Lord!” And he will welcome us into his glorious kingdom with every blessing imaginable. Blessed are those who endure. **James 5-11**—“Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord.” The Lord is very compassionate and merciful and wants us to become like Him. He wants us to be very compassionate and very merciful as people in our relations with other people—flowing with love and compassion and merciful kindness.

1 Peter 4:7—“the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers.
⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’
⁹ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever.”

The day or the hour Christ will return, I do not know. None of us know the exact date of the coming of Christ. When I mention dates and give scenarios about his coming, I am not setting dates, but am *pointing out possibilities* of one time or another and may mention several at the same time. Let me give you an example. **Psalm 90:10** says, “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years.” If we call either of these the life span of man as what Christ is speaking of in **Matthew 24:3** which says, “what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age”— the last generation that will not expire until he comes. It is like the olive tree that grows up and produces olives. It is not proof of anything. However, consider that Israel was reconstituted as a state or nation in 1948—God’s people, the olive tree. Seventy years from 1948 is 2018. Could that mean that Christ could return in 2017-2018? Well, that is a possibility, but if a person lives to be 80 years old by strength—not just seventy but eighty. So there is also the possibility that this end-time generation is really an 80 year life span. If so, then that would mean *the possible* end of the age would not be 2018 but ten years later which would be 2028. The normal life span of man is 70 years and 70 years from the recognition and founding of Israel as a nation in 1948 is 2018 and 2028 would be 80 years. Somewhere between there, it appears that Christ will likely return. I think that will be a sure thing. It does say in Matthew and elsewhere that the Lord will cut short the days of his coming.

The tetrad of the blood red moons occurring this year at Passover and Sukkoth (Tabernacles) and again next year in 2015 on the annual holy days of Passover and Sukkoth is meaningful. This tetrad occurred at the time of the Six-Day War when Israel conquered the Golan Heights, captured the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Sinai Peninsula and the old city of Jerusalem including the Temple Mount. Big things happened. The last time a tetrad like this occurred was in 1948-49 when Israel was founded as a state. It is significant that Israel became a state and captured the Temple Mount at the time of the two former blood moon tetrads. What is it going to be this time? It is certainly a warning and precursor that the second coming of Christ is at hand. The Messiah is coming soon. It may also signify that it is time to rebuild the house of God—the temple of God in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount.

In the last few weeks the Rabbis are making noise about having a temple on the Temple Mount and a place to worship and planning to build a synagogue. There is also a movement among religious Jews to claim Israeli sovereignty over a part of the Temple Mount and to rebuild the temple. The synagogues are places of worship and are often called temples, as the one in Pasadena, California which I have visited. **Revelation 11:1**—John says, “I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.’ ” This could be referring to a literal temple or synagogue on the Temple Mount. It may be a lot closer than a lot of people think of that being fulfilled. There is a concerted effort now to do that.

1 Peter 4:7-8—“the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ ” How important that is! **Matthew 24:12-13**—“and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But **he who endures to the end shall be saved.**” Lawlessness abounds around us today. Lawlessness is everywhere and people are hostile, angry and have a chip on their shoulder. Very little warmth, compassion and love are evident in our materialistic and entitlement society.

Luke 9:51-56—“Now it came to pass, when the time had come for him (Jesus) to be received up, that he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, and ⁵²sent messengers before his face . And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for him. ⁵³But they did not receive him, because his face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.” There was animosity and racial feeling between the Samaritans and the Jews, so if he was going to Jerusalem the Samaritans did not want him to come to their village. ⁵⁴“And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?’ ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. ⁵⁶For the son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.’ And they went to another village.”

Luke 9:57- 62-- Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, “Lord, I will follow you wherever you go.”⁵⁸ That person did not understand the cost of discipleship. “And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’ ”

⁵⁹ Then He said to another, “Follow Me.”But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” His priorities were mixed up. Apparently his father had recently died. Christ chose that man and told him to “follow Me” as a disciple to work in the church. ⁶⁰“Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and preach the kingdom of God.’ ” Christ had given him a charge, an opportunity to be one of his disciples and to follow him to be in the kingdom of God. Other family members can take care of burying the dead. But YOU have been given a direct commission.

⁶¹ And another also said, “Lord, I will follow you, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” This man’s priorities were mixed up, too. ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**” Once we make a commitment to God, we are to obey and follow through without hesitation or distraction, without looking back. Put aside the things of this world that you might have done or had. Keep your eyes focused ahead on the kingdom and laying up treasures in heaven. Christ himself said, the Son of Man has no place to lay his head. He came to teach the good news of the kingdom of God, not to own property. His treasures were not of this earth, but his treasures are in heaven.

Looking back is a dangerous thing to do. **Genesis 19:26**—³“For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD

and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.¹⁵ When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.”¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.¹⁷ So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.” **Luke 17:2**—“Remember Lot’s wife.”²⁶ “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” The point is Christ talks about Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot. As they were fleeing for their life, Lot’s wife longing for the family left behind, wistfully looked back in sadness as fire and brimstone came down from God in heaven and destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Because Lot’s wife looked back, when she was told not to look behind, she became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19:26). Today a pillar of Salt can be seen standing in that area of the Dead Sea.

Luke 17:26 -30 —“as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until *the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.*

²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, and they built; ²⁹ but *on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.* ³⁰ Even **so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.** “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one, who is in the field, let him not turn back. ³² Remember Lot’s wife. ³³ Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”

Luke 17:30—“I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the **one will be taken** and the **other will be left.** ³⁵ Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. ³⁶ Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.” The phrase: one will be taken, means that one will be **killed – destroyed** in the destruction that is coming. ‘The other will be left is speaking of **the one that is left alive**. In other words, the interpretation of this verse quoted right here is the exact opposite of what Tim LaHaye and all these Bible thumping “RAPTURE” preachers say. They have got it all backwards, in reverse order. They teach that the one who is taken is lifted up to heaven in the “RAPTURE”, and the one who is left behind is going to suffer the Great Tribulation. They have it exactly backward. The *one who is taken* is like the ones taken by the Flood in Noah’s time and those taken by the Fire and Brimstone in Sodom and Gomorrah. They are the ones who died. The ones who are left are the ones who are living—the survivors—the ones who have God’s protection. Human beings on this earth are not being taken away (raptured) to heaven to escape the Great Tribulation. That is not God’s plan.

Luke 17: 37—the disciples asked Christ, “Where?” So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.” That answers the question *where*. What is Christ talking about here? It is a principle being talked about here. When vultures are seen in the sky

hovering and circling, there is a carcass either on the verge of death or dead. When it dies those vultures (scavengers) fly down and land wherever the body is and start eating the dead carcass until it is gone. Then “Christ spoke a *parable* to them (the persistent widow) that **men always ought to pray and not lose heart.**” This is **enduring** prayer—we are to keep on praying and believing regardless of circumstances and refuse to ever quit praying. **Luke 18:1-8**—“There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘get justice for me from my adversary.’ ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet

because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ⁶ Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said.’” Although the judge did not fear God or men he did not like to be wearied, so the widow’s continued persistence caused the unjust judge to act in her behalf. ⁷ “**Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long (endures) with them?** ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.” God is bearing and enduring right along with us. If you quit, you will not win. But the way you can win, is by never quitting. “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” As a familiar quote says, “Winners never quit, and quitters never win.”

The Lord of hosts says in **Malachi 3:1**—“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord, whom you seek, **will suddenly come to His temple**, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming. ² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when He appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like launderers’ soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; he will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.” Not many people are willing to endure to the end. Not very many are living a life of faith and who not wavering or staggering at the promises of God. Comparatively speaking there are a few—like a handful. The world has become like the men and women in Noah’s day and those in Sodom and Gomorrah and don’t even know God. A lot of so-called Christians have been deceived and do not know the truth of God or his promises. The true rapture does not occur until after the Great Tribulation and when Christ returns in glory at the sound of the trumpet. That is when his people rise up to meet him in the air. We have an article on the “*The Rapture –Fact or Fiction.*”

Paul says in **Philippians 2:7**—“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;” *Why does Paul do this?* ¹⁰ “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death (following Christ), ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” That’s what Paul’s goal was—to be in the resurrection of the righteous first-fruits of the kingdom of God when Christ returns. That is the important thing. This is the real goal for which we are all striving. During this Omer count season

we are working on the overcoming of our human nature and lusts of the flesh as we battle daily and journey toward the kingdom of God. It is a daily struggle. We have to strive to obtain the resurrection from the dead which is at the coming of Christ. We have to believe in Christ, and that belief opens the door for us to receive his Holy Spirit which will then enable us to obey God and keep his commandments. **Acts 5:32**—“And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has **given to those who obey Him.**”

Paul continues in **Philippians 3:12-13**—“**Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on,** that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.” Paul does not consider himself already saved.¹³ “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do* (this is what Paul is concentrating upon), forgetting those things which are behind (riches, fame and honor of this world) and reaching forward to those things which are ahead.¹⁴ I press toward (reaching for) the goal for the prize of the upward call (high calling) of God in Christ Jesus.” Paul states that he has not already gained this reward nor is he already perfected. It was not all done and finished at the cross. It just **BEGAN AT THE CROSS** and the sacrifice of Christ.¹⁵ “Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind;” and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.¹⁶ Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. **1 Timothy 6:12**—“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” It is not enough just to profess Christ. It is not enough to just start the fight, but we have to finish the fight and profess Christ until we die. **Matthew 6:33** –“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things (verses 25-32) shall be added to you.” We have to put the kingdom of God **FIRST** in our lives, and all the other things will be added.

Week four of the Omer count is *Netzach* which is best summarized by the word endurance. During this week we examine and refine the emotional attribute of endurance. *Netzach* means endurance, fortitude and ambition and is a combination of determination and tenacity. It is a balance of patience, persistence and guts. Endurance is also being reliable and accountable, which establishes security and commitment. Without endurance, any good endeavor or intention has no chance of success. Endurance means to be alive, to be driven by what counts. It is the readiness to fight for what you believe, to go all the way. This, of course, requires that endurance be closely examined to ensure that it is used in a healthy and productive manner. Day four is also *netzach*, the day of endurance and overcoming. The Omer count today is day 4 of week 4 and Day 25, overall.

We have begun the journey and have begun to fight. Theodore Roosevelt so eloquently said: “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds;

who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Day 22 -- Chesed of Netzach: Loving-kindness in Endurance. For anything to endure it needs to be loved. For endurance to be effective it needs to be caring and loving. Does my endurance cause me to be, or seem to be inflexible? Does my drive and determination cause me to be controlling? Am I too demanding? Do others cooperate with me out of my drive, or out of love?

Day 23 – Gevurah of Netzach: Discipline in Endurance. Examine the discipline of your endurance. It must be directed toward productive goals and expressed in a constructive manner. Is my endurance and determination focused to help cultivate good habits and break bad ones? Or is it the other way around? Does my endurance come from strength or weakness, or out of defensiveness?

Day 24 —Tiferet of Netzach: Compassion in Endurance. Healthy endurance, directed to develop good qualities and modifying bad ones, will always be compassionate. Endurance without compassion is misguided and selfish. Does my determination compromise my compassion for others? Be patient and listen to someone who usually makes you impatient.

Day 25 —Netzach of Netzach: Endurance in endurance. Everyone has willpower and determination. The goal is to break bad habits. We have the capacity to endure much more than we can imagine, and to prevail under the most trying of circumstances. It is required to closely examine your endurance to ensure that it is used in a healthy and productive manner—that you are enduring in the right thing. Endure what is healthy, righteous and just in behavior. Ask yourself: Is my behavior erratic? Am I steadfast? Since I have will and determination, why am I so mercurial? Do I fear being trapped by my commitment? If so, examine the reason why. Is it a reaction to some past trauma? Instead of cultivating endurance in healthy areas, have I developed a capacity for endurance of unhealthy experiences? Do I underestimate my capacity to endure?

Day 26--Hod of Netzach: Humility in Endurance. Yielding – which is a result of humility— is an essential element of enduring. Standing fast can sometimes be a formula for destruction. Why am I often afraid to yield? The oak, lacking the ability to bend in the hurricane, is uprooted. The reed, which yields to the wind, survives without a problem.

Endurance means overcoming. Do we endure and wrestle in prayer for one another? Is our endurance compassionate and loving of others? Have we put our hand to the plow, counted the cost of discipleship and determined not to turn back, but to push forward and really endure to the end? Earnestly seek those things which are above; seek not the things which are of the earth that are passing away. Jacob was tenacious and wrestled all night long with the angel (the one that became Christ) refusing to give

up until the angel blessed him. Be steadfast like Paul, press toward (reach for) the goal for the prize of the upward high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.