

A WORD FROM THE LORD

INTRODUCTION

I believe there is a word from the Lord for us today: *hupomone*

hupomone is patient endurance with a joyful spirit

putting names to the word **SLIDE WITH NAMES**

a word about those no longer here

How I hope to approach this today

REVELATION 3:7-13

The Church at Philadelphia

God has placed before them an open door

They have little strength; they certainly are no megachurch

They have faced some serious opposition

They have faithfully and patiently endured much

God loves them and will protect them

They must hold on to the One who is holding on to them

They are promised great eternal rewards

They must keep their ears tuned to the voice of the Spirit

The Church at Brunswick Reformed

God has given us many open doors through the years, and he still is

We have relatively little strength, but God has great strength

We have good favor with leaders of other churches

We have faithfully and patiently endured much

the exile from our building

the moving away of key leaders

broken marriages and broken families

tragic deaths—infants, teens, young adults, beloved members, suicides

With the help of God and each other BRC has shown *hupomone*

How do We Develop This Patient Endurance?

1. **Understand the nature and necessity of the church**
like a lived in house will not mature spiritually w/o the church
2. **Endure crises and tragedies with the help of each other**
talk to the 11 who are still here ask me
3. **Develop “ears to hear” rather than “itching ears”**
if you didn’t like past few weeks, take it up w God, not Dan
I’ve seen too many come & go
4. **Make an unwavering commitment to be faithful in worship**
“Canaanites” Al George Bob & Nancy
5. **Develop the mentality of a willing servant—like Jesus**
6. **Get and stay connected with other Christians**
Joel Osteen and Charles Stanley won’t be there for you in crisis
7. **Trust and respect and support your leaders**
if you can’t be led you won’t develop *hupomone*
8. **Stay humble—God is in control, and you are not God**
9. **Understand that unity does not require uniformity**
defined and connected during political season
the twelve disciples
10. **Pray continually**

CONCLUSION

NAMES SLIDE

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INTRODUCTION

Key concept for today: *hupomone* = patient endurance with a joyful spirit

Putting names to that word

REVELATION 3:7-13

The Church at Philadelphia

The Church at Brunswick Reformed

How Do We Develop This Patient Endurance?

1. Understand the nature and necessity of the _____
2. _____ crises and tragedies with the help of each other
3. Develop “ears to hear” rather than “_____ ears”
4. Make an _____ commitment to be faithful in worship
5. Develop the _____ of a willing servant—like Jesus
6. Get and stay _____ with other Christians
7. Trust and respect and support your _____
8. Stay _____ --God is in control, and you are not God
9. Understand that unity does not require _____
10. _____ continually

CONCLUSION