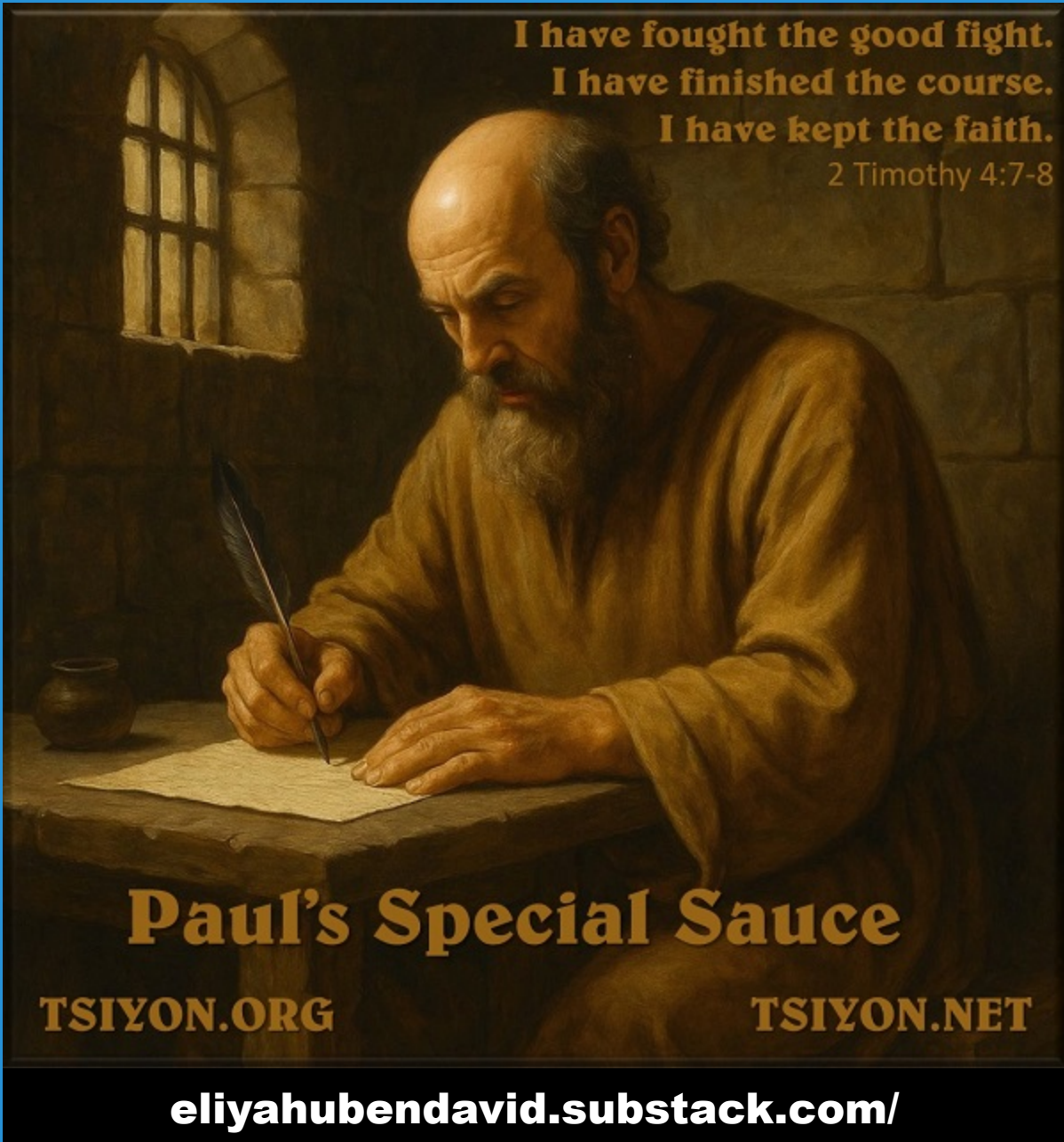


TSIYON NEWS

Tsiyon Messianic Radio Newsletter - Vol 20.44 - 08/14/6025 TAM - 11/05/2025 AD

This and all original Tsiyon News editions can be viewed [here](#).



**I have fought the good fight.
I have finished the course.
I have kept the faith.**
2 Timothy 4:7-8

Paul's Special Sauce

TSIYON.ORG **TSIYON.NET**

eliyahubendavid.substack.com/

From Elijahu

If you've walked with Yeshua for any length of time, you already know this:

Real discipleship is not a sprint.

There are seasons when following Him feels fresh and exciting - new insights, answered prayers, visible fruit.

And then there are those other seasons: the long, slow grind. Prayers seem to bounce off the ceiling. Culture pushes back. Old temptations resurface. People you love drift away. You're feeling tired.

In those moments you might quietly think, "Is it supposed to be this hard? Did I somehow do this wrong?"

That's when it helps to look again at someone who absolutely did not have an easy path, yet stayed faithful to the end: the Apostle Paul. His life is like a long, steady flame in a world of sparks and flashes - a living picture of faithful persistence. Not perfection. Not ease. Persistence.

Let's take a look at the recipe for the 'special sauce' of faithfulness that makes Paul such an outstanding example for all believers. I'm talking about: Longevity, Intensity, Endurance, and Obedience.

When we first meet Paul (then Sha'ul) in Acts, he's not exactly "apostle material." None of the believers looked at him and said; "There's a man who will toil long and hard for Yeshua." On the contrary, he's watching the coats while Stephen is stoned and "breathing threats and murder" against the followers of Yeshua.

Then, on the road to Damascus to destroy the believers there, the risen Messiah confronts him, blinds him, and calls him. That moment changes everything - but it's only the beginning.

From that encounter until his death in Rome was roughly three decades. Thirty-plus years of saying yes to Yeshua over and over again, in place after place, season after season.

Think about how many different chapters Paul lived through:

- Young, fiery evangelist preaching in synagogues, baffling people who knew his old story.
- Tentmaker-apostle traveling city to city, planting congregations and then circling back to strengthen them.

- Older spiritual father, writing letters from prison to encourage, correct, and anchor believers he couldn't visit.
- Finally, a seasoned disciple in a Roman cell, aware his time is almost up, still pouring courage into Timothy: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

He didn't just have one great year with God. He stayed in the race until the finish line. That alone speaks to us. In a culture that loves quick results and viral moments, Paul reminds us that discipleship is a long obedience in the same direction.

It's not just about:

- The powerful mountain top experience where you were on fire.
- The short season when prayer felt easy, with immediate results.
- The one mission trip that changed your life.

It's about what happens after the mountain top, down in the valley. After the emotions have leveled out. After the spiritual high is over.

Practical question: If you keep walking with Yeshua at your current pace, current habits, and current priorities - if Yeshua should tarry, what does that look like 10 years from now? 20? Are you building a life that could still say, "I have kept the faith," when you're at the end?

This is where intensity, even with suffering, comes in.

If Paul had a "ministry brochure" for recruiting fellow-workers most people would never sign up. In 2 Corinthians 11:23–28 he gives a rare, raw list of what his life actually looked like:

- Five times he was flogged by his own people.
- Three times he was beaten with rods.
- Once he was stoned and left for dead.
- He endured three shipwrecks, plus a day and night adrift at sea.
- Constant danger from rivers, robbers, his own people, the Gentiles, the city, the wilderness could not dampen his intensity of service.
- Sleepless nights, hunger, cold, and ongoing concern for all the congregations all were endured for the Kingdom's sake.

That's not a sprint - that's a marathon of faith.

Yet Paul didn't write this to make us feel sorry for him. Neither is he bragging. He's showing that suffering didn't disprove his calling; it confirmed it. Yeshua had already warned, "I will show him how much he must suffer for My name." And he did. (Acts 9:16)

Paul understood something we often try to avoid: The path of obedience may be painful, but the presence of pain does not mean the absence of God. Never did Paul say: "all these troubles must mean God is not with me." Quite the contrary, he always affirmed the Lord was with him through every trial.

He didn't chase suffering for its own sake. He wasn't trying to be a hero. But when suffering came because he was obeying Yeshua, he didn't treat it as a sign to quit. He treated it as part of the cost of carrying the Good News into a resistant world. He was being like his Lord.

Now, bring that into our world. Most of us won't be flogged or shipwrecked. But we do know what it's like to face:

- Relational tension because of our loyalty to Yeshua.
- Being misunderstood or labeled because of what we believe.
- Financial pressure when we choose integrity over compromise.
- Emotional weariness of serving, giving, and loving when it isn't always appreciated.

Paul's life quietly asks us:

- Have I made comfort my main indicator for whether God is with me?
- Have I unconsciously decided, "If it's hard, it must not be God"?
- Am I willing to accept that some assignments from Yeshua come wrapped in difficulty?



PAUL ENDURED 3 SHIPWRECKS

The presence of pain does not mean the absence of God.

Intensity is not about chasing hardship. It's about being willing to stay the course when hardship comes, because the mission is worth it.

Endurance means a life that doesn't give up. Suffering by itself doesn't produce maturity. If it did, the most mature people on earth would be the most miserable. What mattered in Paul's life was not just that he suffered, but that he didn't give up.

Listen to how honest he is: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed." - 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

He admits to being pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down. He does not claim to be invincible, unfazed, or always upbeat. But he draws a line: "not crushed... not in despair... not forsaken... not destroyed." That's endurance.

You can almost hear him saying, "Yes, this is hard - but I know where the story is going, and I know Who is with me."

So how did Paul keep going?

A few anchors show up again and again in his letters:

A solid foundation: Yeshua Himself. He never got over the fact that Yeshua loved him and had shown him mercy. "The Son of God... loved me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20)

When your foundation is the Person, not a project, you can endure a lot of change – a lot – whatever it takes.

And what of Paul's eternal perspective? "This light momentary affliction is working for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory..." (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Paul isn't minimizing pain; he's comparing it with glory. He weighs "now" against "forever" and chooses to live for forever.

Paul had a powerful sense of stewardship. He sees his calling as something entrusted to him, not invented by him. "Woe is me if I don't proclaim the Good News!" he said. (1 Corinthians 9:16) When you know you're carrying a responsibility from God, you can't just drop it casually.

Paul walked in the strength of the Spirit, not his own willpower. Paul constantly leans on the reality that the Spirit empowers and sustains him: "I can do all things through Messiah who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) Paul shows us that endurance isn't just gritting your teeth and pretending you're okay. It's leaning hard on YHWH's strength when yours runs out.

Maybe you're in one of those seasons right now where you're tempted to withdraw:

- Ministry feels like more output than fruit.
- Prayer feels dry.
- People you invested in have walked away.

Paul's story whispers, "Don't make permanent decisions in temporary pain. Stay in the race."

The final ingredient in this special sauce that makes all of this work is a little thing called "Obedience" – which is nothing less than a life aligned with the will of your Father in Heaven.

When Paul stands before King Agrippa in Acts 26 and tells his story, there's a simple line that summarizes his whole life: "I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision." (Acts 26:19)

That's it. That's his success criteria.

- Not “I was famous.”
- Not “I was always right.”
- Not “Everyone approved of me.”
- Just: “I wasn’t disobedient to what Yeshua told me.”

Obedience shows up in big and small ways all through his journey:

- He proclaims Good News in cities where he knows persecution is likely.
- He accepts the Spirit’s “No” as much as the Spirit’s “Go.” (Think of the closed doors in Acts 16 that led to the Macedonian call.)
- He confronts Peter publicly in Antioch when the truth of the Good News is at stake.
- He goes to Jerusalem, even when prophetic words warn him suffering is ahead - because he’s convinced that’s what obedience looks like.

Notice something important: Paul’s obedience is relational. He isn’t simply following a rulebook; he’s responding to a Person.

- When Yeshua redirects him, he adjusts.
- When Yeshua calls him into hardship, he goes.
- When Yeshua opens a door, he walks through it.

For some of us, obedience often looks less dramatic but no less real:

- Choosing honesty when a lie would be easier.
- Serving quietly when nobody will see or say “thank you.”
- Staying faithful in prayer for a prodigal who seems farther away than ever.
- Saying “yes” to a small assignment the Spirit nudges us toward, even if no one else notices.

Obedience is where love becomes visible. Yeshua said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15) Paul’s life is simply the long, lived-out version of that verse.

Paul’s life gives us a simple pattern that I’m calling “Paul’s special sauce”:

Longevity – Don't just start; finish.

Intensity – Don't run from every discomfort; let God use it.

Endurance – Don't confuse being pressed with being abandoned.

Obedience – Don't chase applause; respond to the heavenly vision.

There it is - Paul's "special sauce" for faithfulness as a disciple of Yeshua. In a world racing after the next new thing, Yeshua is still looking for men and women who will quietly, stubbornly, joyfully keep walking with Him year after year, like Paul.

Let Paul's words be Yeshua's personal encouragement to you: "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Your labor is not in vain. Keep going, faithful to the end.

Tonight we will be streaming Messiah's praiseworthy women discussing *Persistence and Faithfulness*. We all need this, in light of the things that are coming upon the world. Join us at 8 PM Central at <https://tsiyon.net/> and other video platforms. Like I said: we all need this.

In His Name, Eliyahu

Contact: <https://tsiyon.org> - <https://elijahubendavid.substack.com/>

Join us tonight at Tsiyon.Net for this encouraging group discussion!



Audio:



Video:



Thanks to our Tsiyon Ministry Partners for your support of this ministry!
Not a Tsiyon Ministry Partner yet? Visit our Tsiyon [Website](#) for full details.

Copyright 2025 Tsiyon

Leave feedback, prayer requests and comments [here](#). You may unsubscribe [here](#).

Please help keep Tsiyon on the air!

[Click to Donate](#)

Tsiyon
 9901 Brodie Lane
 Suite 160, Unit 1421
 Austin, TX, USA, 78748

Please make offering checks to: "Tsiyon."

