We love testimonies where the prison door opens, the diagnosis changes, and the danger disappears. But what happens when the prison door stays shut? What happens when obeying Jesus leads us into suffering?

Revelation 13:9–10 prepares believers for that moment. It calls them to a faith that remains steady even when deliverance does not come

God calls His people to **hear His Word**, **trust His justice**, and **remain faithful** when obedience becomes extremely costly

If anyone has an ear, let him hear. Revelation 13:9 NKJV

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints Revelation 13:10 NKJV

Revelation 13:1–8 describes a beast empowered by the dragon

He receives worship, speaks blasphemies, exercises authority for forty-two months, and wages war against the saints

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35–39

If anyone has an ear, let him hear Revelation 13:9 NKJV

Jesus uses similar wording in the Gospels:

He who has ears to hear, let him hear! Matthew 11:15 NKJV
If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:23 NKJV

The call also appears throughout Revelation 2–3, where Jesus says:
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 3:22 NKJV

If anyone has an ear, let him hear. Revelation 13:9 NKJV - Pay close attention to God's message, receive it, and respond in faith and obedience

Hear God's quiet voice carefully when the world speaks loudly

Elijah encountered God's still small voice after the wind, earthquake, and fire

And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. 1 Kings 19:12 NKJV

The **summons to hear interrupts the description of the beast**

John directs attention away from the beast's impressive power and toward God's instruction

In Scripture, hearing **involves receiving** and **responding** to what God says

A person can understand the **words intellectually** while **refusing their authority** practically

In the context of this chapter, it prepares believers for a difficult message: faithfulness will involve loss of life and suffering, and they must respond with endurance

"If anyone has an ear, let him hear" This verse summons attentive hearing that leads to obedience

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves James 1:22 NKJV

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror James 1:24 NKJV

for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was James 1: 25 NKJV

Hearing God's Word must lead to doing something

Mark 4:23–25: Jesus connects **attentive hearing with responsibility** for the truth received

Matthew 7:24–27: The wise person hears Christ's teaching and acts upon it

Practical ways to hear God's Word

Open your Bible with a prayer. Before reading, ask, Lord, help me understand Your Word and give me a willing heart to obey it

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. Psalm 119:18 NKJV

Read slowly and in context. Read the verses before and after the passage. Ask: What does this **reveal about God**? What **instruction, promise, or warning** is here? Understanding always comes before application

Listen through faithful teaching. Bible studies and conversations can help you understand Scripture. **Check what you hear against the Bible**, even when the speaker sounds convincing

They received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11 NKJV

Make room to pay attention. **Put down** the **phone**, quiet the **distractions**, and give the passage your attention. You don't need a **dramatic feeling to hear God's Word**

This applies to news, social media; a **loud voice is not automatically a trustworthy voice**

Act on what you understand. Ask, what is one step of obedience I can take today? It might be **forgiving** someone, telling the **truth**, serving a **neighbor**, or **refusing retaliation**

Ask more than, "**What did I learn**?" Ask, "**How should I respond**?"

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. James 1:22 NKJV

In Iron River, a severe-weather warning can interrupt whatever you are doing. Hearing the warning is only the beginning. Its value becomes evident when you respond

God's Word likewise **deserves more than background attention**

He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints Revelation 13:10 NKJV

"He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity"

In the wording, those who imprison and kill others will face corresponding judgment

The persecutor's power does not place him beyond accountability

It's a **recurring biblical pattern**: God **sees oppression** and holds **oppressors responsible**

Evil may have an opportunity, but it does **not have immunity**

The scripture reinforces exactly what I am talking about

- Isaiah 33:1: The destroyer and betrayer will themselves face destruction and betrayal
- Matthew 26:52: Jesus warns Peter against taking up the sword to defend Him
- Romans 12:19–21: Believers must leave vengeance to God and overcome evil with good
- Revelation 19:19–21: The beast's opposition ends in decisive judgment

"he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword"

The warning about the sword should not be treated as a promise that every violent person will die in exactly the same manner or immediately receive punishment

Someone **misrepresents you publicly**. You **compose a response** that exposes their **weaknesses** and **embarrasses** them. Every sentence feels satisfying…

Then comes the harder question for us: **Am I defending truth, or seeking revenge?**

You may need to correct falsehood, establish boundaries, or seek appropriate help. But none of those requires hatred or revenge

Refuse to let another person's sin **determine your character**

Trusting God's justice does not prohibit reporting wrongdoing, protecting vulnerable people, or pursuing lawful remedies. It means surrendering personal vengeance to God

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord Romans 12:19 NKJV

Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Romans 12:20 NKJV

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good Romans 12:21 NKJV

Here is the patience and the faith of the saints

Patience means steadfast endurance

The word translated patience is hypomonē, (hype-oh-mon), meaning endurance or perseverance

In this setting, it describes continuing **loyalty to Christ under extreme pressure**

This is the resolve to continue obeying when **circumstances provide strong reasons to quit**

The saints endure because their allegiance belongs to Christ. The beast can threaten their lives, but he will not receive their worship

- Daniel 3:16–18: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego trust God's ability to deliver them, yet refuse idolatry even if He does not
- 1 Peter 2:21–23: Jesus suffers without retaliating and entrusts Himself to the righteous Judge
- 1 Peter 4:19: Those suffering according to God's will should entrust themselves to their faithful Creator while continuing to do good

- Hebrews 11:35–40: Faithful people experience both remarkable deliverance and severe suffering

Early in a marathon, enthusiasm does considerable work.

Later, when your legs hurt, and the finish line remains distant, enthusiasm needs help from commitment

You keep moving because you set the goal before the discomfort arrived

Christian endurance likewise depends on convictions established before the crisis: Christ is worthy, His Word is true, and obedience matters even when it hurts.

The difference is that spiritual endurance is sustained by God's grace, not simply personal determination

Revelation 13:9–10 addresses severe persecution and demands allegiance to Christ. We should preserve that seriousness while applying its principles to the pressures we face now

We may not understand everything He allows, but we can worship Him for who He is

The cross has shown us His love
The empty tomb has shown us His power
And His promises give us hope to keep going

He is Yahweh—the Great I Am. He was faithful before this trial began; He is present with us in it, and He will remain faithful when it is over

So bring Him your weariness. Bring Him your fears. Let's lift our voices together and declare our trust in Yahweh, the Great I Am.

Keep listening. Keep trusting. Keep following Yahweh