

Confirmation 2005

My dear confirmands of 2005,

Today you are invited to experience the special festive day of your confirmation in the midst of a festive congregation together with your parents, teachers, and bearers of blessing. This is a special day of blessing.

I welcome you warmly at the Lord's altar and greet you with the words found in Matthew 24:13: **"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."**

Synonyms for 'endure' include to stand firm, not to waver, and not to be discouraged.

Through your election and the dispensation of the sacraments God in His love has elevated you to be His own. Your parents and the 'teachers of God's kingdom' have led you on the beautiful path of faith which extends to eternal life. They have taught you to cling to the great qualities of our faith. It is now essential to 'endure' in these, and arrange your life in a responsible manner as defined in Christ's teachings.

In Acts 2:42 we read: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Continuing to stand firm in faith is the basis for your inner development into Christ's nature. This occurs when you assimilate God's word in your soul and occupy yourself with His word. When you act on the word you will have experiences of faith. Thereby your confidence will increase in God's omnipotence and His wise guidance on your course of life. At the same time you gain an increasingly deeper understanding of the interrelationships in God's work. This causes your hope and love for the Lord to grow stronger and become more and more sincere. Nothing can then take you away from the Lord. You will be strong and convinced personalities of faith, and take Jesus' advice to endure to the end so that you will become blissful and ultimately be saved by Him.

For this I wish you abundant blessings today.

I appeal to you to participate and help along in God's work as much as possible. Everyone has received gifts and capabilities. It is essential to use these in God's work. In doing so you can experience much joy.

I do not want to deny that you will also be tempted. Here it is also imperative to remain with the Lord and persistently draw strength from Christ's sacrifice. I would like to encourage you to do so.

I wish you a future that is blessed by God. Connected with all the apostles of the world I greet you warmly.

Yours,

R. Fehr