

On your mark!

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”

Hebrews 12:1-4 KJV

Endurance: *the ability to withstand hardship or adversity especially; the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort or activity < a marathon runner's endurance>*

Endure means to remain firm under suffering or misfortune without yielding

2 Timothy 2:3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

11 *This is* a faithful saying:

For if we died with *Him*,

We shall also live with *Him*.

12 If we endure,

We shall also reign with *Him*.

If we deny *Him*,

He also will deny us.

The only way to finish this race is by ENDURANCE!

The success of us as believers is our willingness to be in position to receive Instruction and information from God.

When we get distracted we will continue to miss VITAL information from our Heavenly Father that will position us properly for whats to come.

Without being in position we become vulnerable to the attacks of our adversaries.

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

It is imperative that the believer lives a sober life.

There are too many people who are UNDER THE INFLUENCE of everything but the Word of God.

This is a problem because we can't walk in our God given purpose without being under his influence.

BECAUSE SOMETIMES YOUR POSITION DETERMINES WHAT YOU PRIORITIZE!

But when we are locked in and in tune to the heart beat of the kingdom we position ourselves properly to be alert and aware of all potential threats and strategies for battle.

Psalm 91:1-16

***He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.***

2

I will say of the Lord, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."

3

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler[a]
And from the perilous pestilence.

4

He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

5

You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,

6

Nor of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

7

A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.

8

Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.

9

Because you have made the Lord, *who is* my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

10

No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

11

For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

12

In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13

You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14

“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;

I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I *will be* with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

16

With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation.”

This is why God prepares us for battle through enduring the process.

Ones life can change in an instant depending on your POSITION!

(Somebody shout POSITION!)

1 John 2:1-2 NLT

“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”

Bishop told us on resurrection Sunday that "Sin robs us of the glory of God".

Which means we're out of our spiritual position in Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

The devil wants you to believe that sin isn't that big of a deal.

He wants you to also believe that now that you've sinned you might as well stay there. Stay in your current fallen POSITION. Because as long as you're out of your kingdom position you can't do any harm to his twisted and perverted plan.

SIN IS NO JOKE. SIN WAS SUCH A PROBLEM THAT GOD SENT HIS ONLY SON TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR IT.

So don't allow sin to take you out of the race

Dont let the distractions of life to deter you from your final destination.

And know that the benefits of finishing the race Gods way is what God intends for your life.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought **the** good fight, I have finished **the race**, I have kept **the** faith.