

Staying The Course

Revelation 2:10 NKJV 10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Our walk in this life is not promised to be one of ease or comfort. We are engaged in a war of the spirit. We are asked to behave a certain way in this war.

Ephesians 6:12 NKJV 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

This war involves struggle and disappointment and triumph and discouragement and joy. Yes, all of these emotions and more face us on our journey home.

So, when we feel down because of disappointment or illness or frustration with others, what are we to do and what is it God expects of us?

We are encouraged to be strong and don't let these *things* keep us down.

2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

We should also take a lesson from our Lord. He was disappointed and tempted and confronted with all the challenges we face.

Matthew 8:20 NKJV 20 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

Luke 4:1-2 NKJV 1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, **2** being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

John 11:33-35 NKJV 33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. **34** And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept.

Matthew 23:37 NKJV 37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

The Lord was faced with all of these *things* and yet He endured all of this and the cross too and was able to say at the end that He had accomplished that which He came to Earth to do.

John 17:4 NKJV 4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

John 19:30 NKJV 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Jesus came through all of His trials and temptations and remained faithful to His goal, right to the end. And, so it is with us. He has charged us to remain faithful until the end.

James 1:12 NKJV 12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Remaining faithful is not a benign undertaking. Sitting idly by and waiting for life to pass is not what Jesus had in mind.

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Our life's walk is to one of activity. For Jesus did not simply sit down and wait for the end. He was ever working the works which God had given Him to do.

John 9:4-5 NKJV 4 "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. **5** "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

We are to work with all diligence to do the works God has given us to do.

2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Hebrews 4:11-12 NKJV 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. **12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Yes, the Word of God is living in that while we are here we should respond to the Word and teach and admonish and edify each other and those of a lost and dying world. Spreading the "Good News", the gospel and being living examples of Christ is our assigned task showing ourselves to be workers without shame.

1 Corinthians 7:35 NKJV 35 And this I say for your own profit, not that I may put a leash on you, but for what is proper, and that you may serve the Lord without distraction.

Colossians 3:1-3 NKJV 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

1 Peter 5:8 NKJV 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Stay the course and receive that which has been promised to those who persevere to the end.

2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.