

*Encouragement
for the weary!*

With Bishop Ronald K. Powell

Romans 5:1-5

- **Faith Triumphs**

- 1 Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We have also obtained access through Him by faith into this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that but we also rejoice in our afflictions because we know that affliction produces endurance 4 endurance produces proven character and proven character produces hope. 5 This hope will not disappoint us because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

HEBREWS 12:1 AMP

-
- 1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who by faith have testified to the truth of God's absolute faithfulness],
 - stripping off every unnecessary weight
 - and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us,
 - let us run with endurance and active persistence the race that is set before us,

HEBREWS 12:2- AMP

- ² looking away from all that will distract us and focusing our eyes on Jesus, who is the Author and Perfecter of faith [the first incentive for our belief and the One who brings our faith to maturity], who for the joy [of accomplishing the goal] set before Him endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [revealing His deity, His authority, and the completion of His work].

HEBREWS 12:3 AMP

- 3 Just consider and meditate on Him who endured from sinners such bitter hostility against Himself [consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

HEBREWS 12:4-5 AMP

- A Father's Discipline
- ⁴ You have not yet struggled to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;
- ⁵ and you have forgotten the divine word of encouragement which is addressed to you as sons,
- "MY SON, DO NOT MAKE LIGHT OF THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
AND DO NOT LOSE HEART *and* GIVE UP WHEN YOU ARE CORRECTED BY HIM;

HEBREWS 12:6-8 AMP

- ⁶ FOR THE LORD DISCIPLINES *and* CORRECTS THOSE WHOM HE LOVES, - AND HE PUNISHES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES *and* WELCOMES [TO HIS HEART].”

HEBREWS 12:6-8 AMP

-
- ⁷ You must submit to [correction for the purpose of] discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?
 - ⁸ Now if you are exempt from correction *and* without discipline, in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate children and not sons at all.

HEBREWS 12:9-10 AMP

-
- ⁹ Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we submitted *and* respected them [for training us]; shall we not much more willingly submit to the Father of spirits, and live [by learning from His discipline]?
 - ¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for only a short time as seemed best to them; but He *disciplines us* for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

Hebrews 12:11 New King James Version (NKJV)

- ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Conclusion

- Are you close to quitting? Please don't do it.
- Are you tired of trying to live for Christ? Hang in there.
- Do you feel like giving up on the Christian life? Roll up your sleeves and get back in there.
- Can't resist temptation? Accept God's forgiveness and keep on living rightly.
- Do you feel that sorrow and disappointment greet your every morning? Hold on. Help is just around the corner.

Conclusion

- Endurance prevails. "Blessed is a man who endures trials, because when he passes the test he will receive the crown of life that He has promised to those who love Him" (Jas. 1:12 NIV). Remember you are not a failure until you give up. You are not a flop until you let go.

Conclusion

- So don't quit. Never give up. Keep going. Hold on.
- God's rewards await us in the distant future not near the beginning; and we don't know how many steps it will take to reach the prize. No breaks or time outs exist; we must work every day of our life. It has been said, "Life is like reading a book. It begins to make sense when we near the end." Endurance maintains the stamina needed to see the end and embrace the prize. So fight another round, rise another time, and, above all, don't let go.