

Patient Endurance

A "Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

Stand Firm

Ephesians 6:10-18 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

The Armor of God

¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Use God's Mighty Weapons

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

A Great Reward

Hebrews 10:35-36 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

He is Faithful

2 Timothy 2:12-13 If we endure hardship, we will reign with him. If we deny him, he will deny us. ¹³ If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

Psalms 27:13-14 Yet I am confident I will see the LORD's goodness while I am here in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.

Psalm 37:3-5, 7 Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires. ⁵ Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. ⁷ Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act.

His work will continue in you until it is done!

Philippians 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Will you go the distance?