

*"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." **Philippians 3:14** KJV*



The race of faith is not to the swift or the strong, but to the faithful who obey God's Word, because they know and trust Him while others stand around and keep records or watch. Only runners who spend every ounce of energy gain the prize. Many men have run earthly races with severe injuries and excruciating pain just to win a ribbon. Runners carry no baggage and run to bring honor to their team. We run to bring honor to our Father and KING. *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (believers gone before us), 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."* The mark is faithfulness, and the prize is to forever stand in the presence of the KING and hear Him say upon our arrival, *"Well done! Thou good and faithful servant."* Think of it! To actually see Jesus face to face and hear His Voice and feel the power and love of His touch! The faithful will witness the final conflict where He vanquishes His enemies forever by speaking it, because *"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, 'Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."* The faithful will watch as a new heaven and earth are created; inhabit the jeweled foursquare City; rule and reign with Christ for eternity; while angels watch in amazement! No more time; no more night; no more tears; no more pain and suffering, only eternal bliss! As the Psalmist said it so eloquently, *"At Thy right hand are pleasures forevermore."* A host of imaginations could run 24/7 and not even begin to scratch the surface of the wonders that await the KING'S children. Remain faithful to the end of your time, whenever that may be, and attain the prize. Remember, God keeps you faithful. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"* Faithfulness like a muscle, increases with use. Run with a patience born of a sure hope in God's Word, *"for it is God which worketh in you BOTH TO WILL AND TO DO of His good pleasure."* The faithful are never alone!

We run by faith the Prize to win,
We do not run for praise of men,
Our Father's face at last we'll see,
With pleasures for eternity. ~CGP

It will be worth it all! The course is for the "runners," not the onlookers. Run *"a little while."* and then, *"pleasures forever more."* At the end of their course of "time," the faithful can proclaim with Paul:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8 KJV