

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses (saints, prophets, apostles), 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." Hebrews 12:1 KJV*



The Christian Life is a like a cross-country race; no cheering crowd, rough terrain, and no company, but other runners. They must run *"with patience,"* pacing themselves. They must set a steady pace and stick to it. On the uphill they must slowly labor; on the downhill they must brake. Unlike cross-country racing, the Christian only has to finish. Christ has already won, and we are each *"more than conquerors through Him."* Yes, we will stumble and fall, because we are our own opposition, but we must get up and keep going *"for a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* We have an unseen Power to draw from for the Race. *"As many as received Him, to them gave He POWER to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name."* The Apostle Paul, beaten, stoned, imprisoned, and finally beheaded, wrote this at the end: *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 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."* The Race will be painful with pain and bruises, but we are not done until we cross the finish. The Prize for every runner is Jesus, because to have Him is to have all that He is and possesses. We must stay on the course to finish the course, but we are not kept there by our own power. *"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a Good Work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ. Thy Word is a Lamp unto my feet, and a Light unto my path. The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, [because he is] Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith."* We must simply endure the course that is set before us. Many faithful have already gone ahead. Why do you run? Jesus *"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."* His Joy is revealed in John 17. *"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My Glory, which Thou hast given Me."* We must always remember to focus on our Prize and Joy *"for great is our reward in Heaven."* Yes, we have to endure pain and conflict, and it may seem uphill all the way, but it's only for a short season. *"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry."* We may enjoy small victories along the way, a missed fall or a bit of a downhill, but our Prize, our Joy is yet to come!

With patience run the dreary race,
With steady step and even pace,
When doubt attempts to hope erase,
True faith will see the Savior's face. –CGP

Believers Hope for *"a City whose Builder and Maker is God."* Their *"Joy cometh in the Morning,"* the Dawn of the Day of the Lord! A new place, a new day, a new body, and a new earth await the faithful who finish their course and keep the faith. Their Joy is being in the Presence and seeing the Person of their Beloved, forever! There will be plenty of cheering at the Finish!

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the Glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18 KJV