

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

November 1, 2024 – The Forerunner Message in the End Times – Erlinda Cruz

Endurance for the Right Race (Part 2)

Another Study on Endurance: Excerpts from the Article of Stepanie Quick from FAI

Obedience is the great equalizer. It isn't easy, but it is simple. It's not rocket science. It isn't impossible (when you have the literal "Helper").[9] It isn't even "movemental." It's just "simple devotion to Jesus." [10] Anybody can do this, anywhere. All you need is the Cross.

This "long obedience in the same direction" is likened to a race; [11] but we are only competing against ourselves. We are only competing against our own flesh, and for this reason, you can't win if you cheat. [12] There's no room for it in the race. Thus all our daily decisions have dignity— to turn the other cheek, to relinquish our affection for money and subjugate our finances to the Cross, to apprehend our errant thoughts, to manage our emotions like the grown adults we are so we don't ruminate in a petri dish of murderous rage that can well disqualify us from the race. [13]

The way of Jesus is the way of freedom, and "carrying our cross daily" to follow Him [14] is the standard training. Then when we do find ourselves exercising a proverbial Murph, we've cultivated the fortitude required to execute the reps demanded of us to stay on the narrow road. And there is an end in sight, a finish line for everybody. Mine is probably marked out differently than yours. Again, we're competing only against ourselves. The common denominator is the Cross; it is also our only qualifier.

After walking through the "hall of faith" of Hebrews 11, reviewing innumerable testimonies bearing witness to the worth of the race, the author leads us— as any should— to Jesus:

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [15]

Define endurance: Biblically, endurance refers to patiently and faithfully persevering through trials and hardships, empowered by God.

Define obedience: The Bible defines obedience as a loving response to God's authority, and involves listening to and acting on God's word:

—Listening: Paying attention to what God says in the Bible.

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- Responding: Acting on what God says, and aligning your will with God's will.
- Submitting: Yielding to God's rule and commandments, and acknowledging God's sovereignty.
- Serving: Serving others and putting their needs before your own.
- Trusting: Trusting that God's way is best, rather than your own.

The concept of obedience in the Bible comes from the Hebrew word Shema, which means to both hear and respond. In the Bible, obedience is a process of continual growth, and is often equated with faithfulness.