

Willing To Run Uphill

I. Introduction: Katrina and I were running recently. As we approached a slight uphill grade, she expressed how much harder that part of the run was. Yet, it is one of the most beneficial parts of that running route as a challenge to one's endurance.

A. It is not my intention to infer or state that being a faithful Christian is too difficult. It is not (**Matthew 11:28-30** and **I John 5:2-3**).

1. Yes, there are things we face because we are Christians that others do not (**John 15:20** and **II Timothy 3:12**).

2. Yet, much of what we face is common to all (**I Corinthians 10:13**).

3. Even the worse saints have faced was still just for a brief period of time (**I Peter 1:6-7** and **Revelation 2:10**).

B. Though what we face is light, especially compared to saints of old, we don't want to be softies (**Proverbs 24:10**).

1. We have to be able to endure some difficult things in life (**James 1:12** and **I Peter 4:12-13**).

2. That pattern has been in place since long ago (**Hebrews 6:13-15**).

II. Body: The Illustration Of Running A Race (**I Corinthians 9:24-27**).

A. Don't fear the uphill, the difficult part of the run because that will build up your endurance (**Romans 5:3-4** and **James 1:2-3**).

1. Endurance [patience] is a huge factor in our spiritual marathon (**Hebrews 10:35-36**). See today's article: https://www.wordsoftruth.net/WOT03_20_2022.html

2. Jesus told His disciples to endure till the end to be saved (**Matthew 10:22**).

3. We don't want to quit running before the end of this race (**Hebrews 3:6**).

B. Looking to Jesus in that run (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

1. Making sure no one is hindering us (**Galatians 5:7**).

2. Drawing your strength from knowing that Jesus did it and you can too (**Philippians 4:13** and **I Peter 2:21-24**).

3. Jesus won the fight, the race, etc. He then gives unto us the pattern of victory (**I Corinthians 15:20-23; 15:54-57**).

4. What did Paul say at the end of his life (**II Timothy 4:6-8**).

C. Don't get weary in well-doing (**Galatians 6:9**).

1. Our labor is not and will not be in vain (**Hebrews 6:10-12**).

2. Have a finisher's mentality (**John 4:30-34** and **Acts 20:22-24**).

III. Conclusion: Once converted to Christ we arrive at the figurative Mount Zion (**Hebrews 12:22-23**). Yet, we have higher heights to reach (**Philippians 3:7-15**).