

STUDY
STUDY
PRAY
FAST
WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP
REST
SERVE
CELEBRATE
GENEROUS
CHASTE
MAKE DISCIPLES
OBEY
MEDITATE
SEEK
WITNESS
ENJOY



Fresh Start

JOB 29:20

Being Steadfast in the Faith
Sunday 23rd April 2023

Foundation Scripture:

1 Peter 5:8-9:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

Introduction

On Sunday 23rd April, hundreds (if not thousands) of men and women ran past Gateway House, competing in the annual London Marathon Race. As challenging as the 26.2-mile race is, it ended in a few hours. The winners were announced, and they received medals and accolades.

However, year after year when this race takes place, it provokes reflection about the ‘race of life’ or the ‘race of faith’ in which we are all partakers.

Unlike the London Marathon, which has the same duration and pathway for all participants, the race of life and faith on this side of eternity is different for everyone.

As a child of God, i.e., one who has made Jesus Lord and Saviour, the goal is to finish well and have the joy of spending the after-life with Him in eternity.

Be Steadfast in the Faith

1 Peter 5:9 charges us to... “Resist the devil and remain steadfast in the faith”.

Whilst we are on this side of eternity, we must remain steadfast in faith in fulfilling God’s desires for our lives.

Being steadfast in faith requires patience (read **Hebrews 6:11-12** and **Romans 15:4** for more context).

Often, the purposes of God may seem to be delayed, but they are always fulfilled. God has a loving purpose for us in every delay. His delays are not His denials.

Read the Scriptures helps to build your faith to be patient and remain steadfast in the faith.

If what you are believing for hasn’t materialised for a while, perhaps for a few months or even for a few years, you must keep believing in faith until the very end.

Remain steadfast in the faith!

Lastly...

Everything the devil does is to make you fear and give up your faith. He responds to and thrives on your fears. God, however, responds to your faith. In this race of faith and life, it is important that we live by faith.

This is why God urges us to resist the devil by being steadfast in the faith.

You may believe that you are doing all that God wants you to do, but perplexedly, it seems to be taking so long for things to turn around.

In response, continue to keep your eyes on Jesus. Continue steadfastly in the faith all the way - in the Word, in prayer and in communion with the Holy Spirit, who will guide you into all truth. Remain in that stance of faith until you receive the manifestation.