

Peace for the Journey ... June 1, 2010

Scripture Reading: [Luke 8:5-15](#)

Life is a marathon, not a sprint.

At least that's how it seems. A marathon is a long hard race, one in which training and preparation are absolutely essential. Most of us could run-walk for 100 yards (even if we didn't break any speed records along the way.) But to finish a journey of 26+ miles requires endurance. We have to be prepared for some difficult miles when we "hit the wall." To finish the race, we have to be willing to keep going, and push through pain and suffering. A marathon runner is prepared for the pain and has learned to trust that finishing is possible.

When Jesus describes those who bear the fruit of God's word, he says they "hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient **endurance**." (Emphasis added.)

The Scripture tells us that God's love endures forever (see [Psalm 136](#)) and that God's love is fuel for our endurance.

"And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:3-5

Ask God for the endurance to be faithful to the end. Trust that endurance will build Christ-like character in your life.

Dear God: Even though I am weak, I know you are strong and I know that your love endures forever. Grant me endurance to run the race you set before so that I might live with Christ-like character. Amen.