



Endurance of the Saints Rom 15.4-6

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Point: The disciple's life can be a long slow walk, and the Word and the Spirit provide endurance.

The Question: How does the saint make it home?

The Word is given to instruct.

The Spirit is there for encouragement.

The Spirit and the Word give strength and spiritual weapons.

The Spirit and the Word give harmony to the body.

You do not need to run; a walk will get you home.

If you are familiar with Dickens' tale, *A Christmas Carol*, then you know about his encounters with the three spirits of Christmas. The spirits compelled him to walk three paths, the first to look at how his life path was formed. The second was to see the present day and the final walk to see his future if he did not repent. I love this story and read it every year.

If you are familiar with HIStory—the Bible, then you know how to walk the road before you. If you read and study his word every day, you are given daily encouragement, patience, warnings, and confidence to face any trial. From Adam and Eve to the King's return, from creation to new creation, the story—the plan is set before you. A wonderfully detailed map and the perfect guide.

There are two worlds, the Christian intersects. Every human intersects, but these two worlds are against the believer and those tinkering about believing. The worlds are the material world of people and the spiritual world of angels. 2 Cor 6.4-10

Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us the Bible—HIStory, a book full of examples of patience, endurance, temptations, deliverance, and intervention. Wherever there was fainting, God would apply the remedy—but the remedy could be used or refused: Cain, Moses, Saul, David, Jehoshaphat, and many more if you read the pages. Heb 12.1-2

Second Corinthians 6.7 tells us we have weapons for Spiritual warfare fitting both the right and left hands—there is a difference. The left-hand holds defensive weapons and the right offensive ones. Gifts of the Holy Spirit. His constant regeneration and guiding hand as you sup on his Word. Col 1.11-12

The body of Christ, his bride the church, benefits from your patient endurance and, in turn, helps you endure spiritual weariness in times. Rom 15.6 Rev 1.9, 3.10, and 14.12.

How does the saint make it home? By holding the Master's hand and keeping his steady course and pace. "*Precious Lord, take my hand.*"