

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

01.jpg

⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. —2 Peter 1:3-7 ESV

02.jpg

VIRTUE
Developing Character

KNOWLEDGE
Knowing God

SELF-CONTROL
Living Positively

STEADFASTNESS
Staying Power

03.jpg

“... the voluntary and daily suffering of hard and difficult things, for the sake of honor and usefulness.” —Cicero

04.jpg

“Christian discipleship is a process of paying more and more attention to God’s righteousness and less and less attention to our own; finding the meaning of our lives, not by probing moods and motives and morals, but by believing in God’s will and purposes; making a map of the faithfulness of God, not by charting the rise and fall of our enthusiasms. It is out of such reality that we acquire perseverance.” —Eugene Petersen

05.jpg



Baseball

06.jpg

1

The View From Down Under

07.jpg

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. —1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

08.jpg

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. —1 Peter 4:12-13 ESV

09.jpg

¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name...
¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
—1 Peter 4:16, 19 ESV

10.jpg

⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

11.jpg

¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.
—1 Peter 5:8-11 ESV

12.jpg

Difficulties are Developmental for Believers

13.jpg

²Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet trials of
various kinds, ³for you know
that the testing of your faith
produces steadfastness. ⁴And let
steadfastness have its full effect,
that you may be perfect and
complete, lacking in nothing.

—James 1:2-4 ESV

14.jpg

“This Christian steadfastness does
not simply sit down and accept
and endure. There is always
a forward look in it.

It is said of Jesus, by the writer to
the Hebrews, that for the joy that
was set before Him, He endured
the cross, despising the shame
(Hebrews 12:2)…”

15.jpg

“Christian steadfastness is the
brave and courageous acceptance
of everything that life can do to us
and the transmuting of even the
worst event into another step on
the upward way.”

—William Barclay

16.jpg

2

The View From Here to There

17.jpg

Satan frequently and effectively
uses the tool of
discouragement in our lives.

18.jpg

"If Satan's arsenal of weapons were restricted to a single one, it would be discouragement." —C.S. Lewis

19.jpg

³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. —2 Timothy 2:3-4 NKJV

20.jpg

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
—Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV

21.jpg

3 The View From What Was to What is Now

22.jpg

"In a way, I wish I could take to heaven my old, tattered Everest & Jennings wheelchair. I would point to the empty seat and say, 'Lord, for decades I was paralyzed in this chair. But it showed me how paralyzed You must have felt to be nailed to Your Cross.'"



23.jpg

"My limitations taught me something about the limitations You endured when You laid aside Your robes of state and put on the indignity of human flesh."



24.jpg

“At that point, with my strong and glorified body, I might sit in it, rub the armrests with my hands, look up at Jesus, and add, ‘The weaker I felt in this chair, the harder I leaned on You. And the harder I leaned, the more I discovered how strong You are.’”



25.jpg

“Thank You, Jesus, for learning obedience in Your suffering... You gave me grace to learn obedience in mine.”

—Joni Eareckson Tada



26.jpg

“Big shots are just little shots that keep shooting.”

30.jpg

4

The View From Up Above

31.jpg

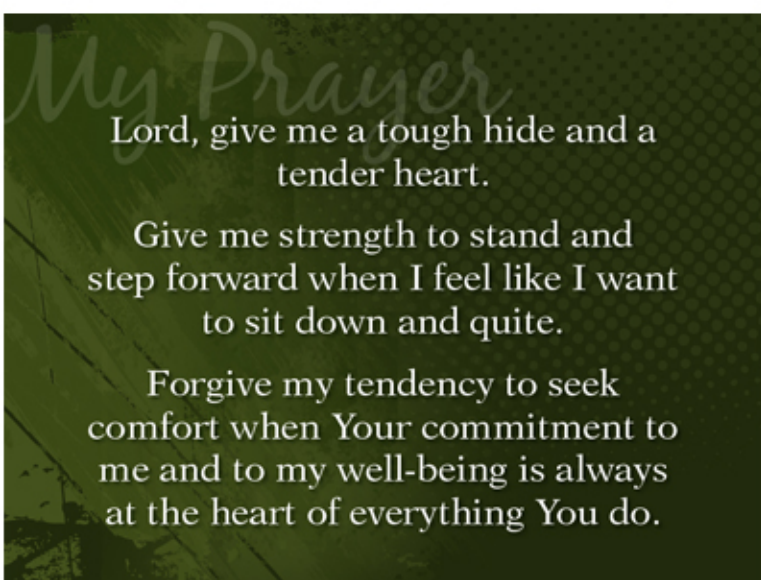


32.jpg

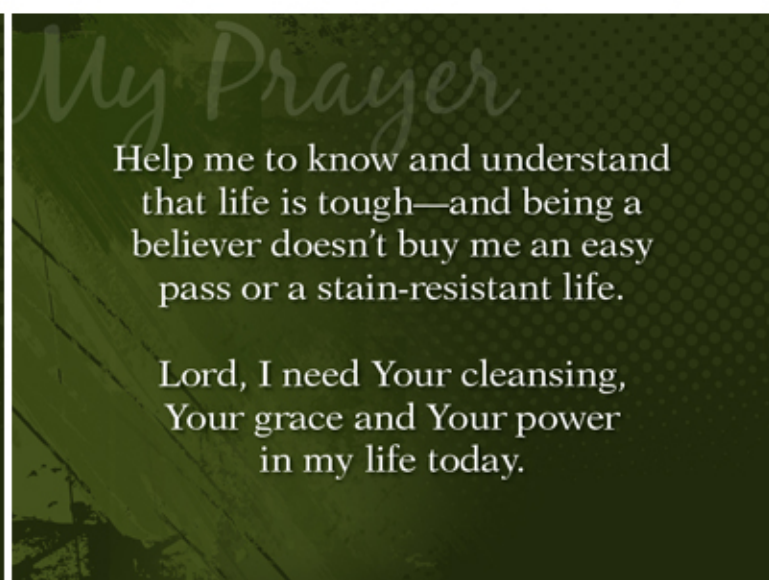
Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

—1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

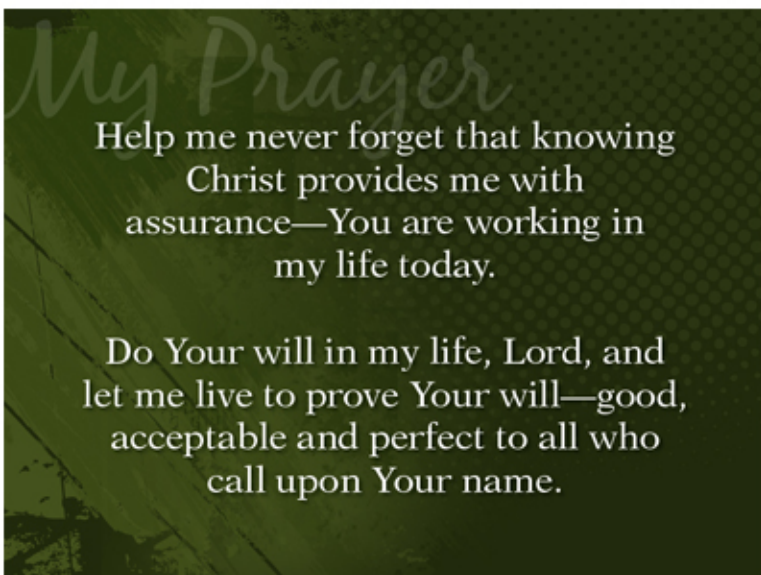
33.jpg



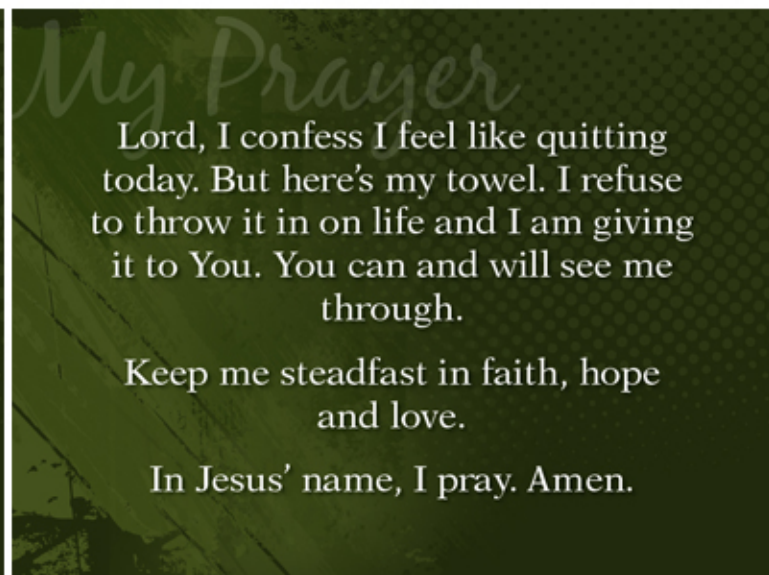
34.jpg



35.jpg



36.jpg



37.jpg