**Keep Running – We’re almost Home**

***Written By: Tommy Romans July 2024***

When you think of the Christian life, what does the Bible compare it to? It is a Race that we must run! It is a Fight that we are engaged in – we Run, we fight, we battle. The Word of God said – we must Strive, we’re to Press, to Hold fast, Stand fast and Hold on. We cannot let up, but must contend for the Faith and continue in God’s Grace!

 I can tell you, by the signs of the time and all that is going on in this world – Jesus is coming SOON, He’s coming in the clouds, in the glory of His Heavenly Father with His Holy Angels. His coming is so near that you can almost hear the sound of the rustling of Angel’s wings. The trumpet will soon be sounding and we’ll be out of here. It’ll be goodbye world, goodbye as the Bride is called away and the redeemed are lifted from the earth. I don’t know about you, but I’m tired of the evil and sin, I’m ready for Heaven, I’m ready for a change and longing to go Home!

The great apostle Paul summed it up this way:

**1Cor 9:24** ¶ Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

 **25** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. (He remains commited in self control) Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

 **26** I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

 Children, we are not home yet! Until the Lord returns, we must stay busy and occupy. Surely it is a Race and we must stay focused and committed. Don’t lose sight of the goal! We’re almost to the finish line, we’ve only got a few more miles to run and we’ll be home! My cry to all of us today – Let’s finish the Race, finish the work, fulfill the ministry that God has given each of us!

**12 Year old girl dreams about Jesus**

About a month ago, a little 12 year old girl out of Brother Ron Evan’s church in Ashland Ky had a dream and in that dream Jesus came to her and told her He was coming soon and she hugged him. When she woke up, she went and told her Mom – “Mommy, I had a dream that I hugged Jesus and He told me He was coming SOON!”

Children, this is real - God is speaking and He is drawing – He’s calling and stirring the Church – our time is short – He is saying - GET READY!! You don’t have time to get tied up and cumbered with things down here.

 Notice what Paul said in the scripture above – “The runners in the Olympic games in his day, ran to obtain a corruptible crown that would perish, **but** we RUN to obtain an incorruptible Crown that will never ever tarnish or fade away.

 Everything people win here in this life will all perish, – trophies, ribbons, badges of honor – you can win titles, awards, and a name, you can gain this whole world – it’s houses and lands, but it will all perish, rot and rust away and forever be forgotten. But the Crown and reward that Jesus will give is eternal, it will shine through all eternity.

 Heaven will be worth it all, worth everything you give up here. It’ll be worth every sacrifice you’ve made, just to hear Jesus say – “Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of the Lord, into Heaven where there are many mansions that God has prepared.

 As I type this Newsletter, I am stirred in my heart! I want to ask each of my readers: “Are you still Running? Are you still in the Race? Is your vision clear and the desire fresh in your heart? Is that longing still deep inside for the Lord and Heaven?”

**Heb 12:1** ¶ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every **weight**, and the **sin** which doth so easily **beset** us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

 **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

 What is the Writer saying to us in these two scriptures?

In the Olympic games in bible days, they had large stadiums filled with people looking down from the grandstands, down on the playing field below to watch the runners compete! Do you know who some of those people were that were in the stands watching the runners and cheering them on? It was the old retired Runners that had once competed and ran and fought and sweated and strove in the same field – They are now looking down and cheering their friends and loved ones on!! You can hear their voices ring out from above and echoing down on the field below, calling their friends and loved one’s names, saying – “Come on, keep running – don’t let up – don’t quit, you can make it – you can WIN!! If we have contended, fought and striven and won so can you!”

There is a Song that says:

“Jesus said when He reached down and saved me – I’ll go with you all the way; So I stepped out upon His promise and it filled me both night and day; I know it’s been many years now, but I can still feel His Spirit moving in my soul – And O it gives me just a taste of what lies ahead, and I feel like running my last mile home! Oh I feel like running my last mile home, I see a great band of angels around God’s throne – Oh what a great celebration as the ages roll on – I feel like running my last mile Home!”

 Children, I’ve had my struggles and battles in my 50 plus years of serving the Lord, I’ve experienced low times and slow times but I’ve never lost my vision of Heaven – I’m still running!! Do you know why? Because I know **what** is waiting and **who** is waiting for me over there!! We are just one heartbeat and one breath away from that Heavenly city. We are just one fleeting moment from our dear loved ones who are waiting! O to see Jesus and to bow before Him, to thank and praise Him, and then with joyous expectation, run into the arms of our dear Mothers, Fathers, sisters and brothers! We’ll meet again our acquaintance’s and the saints of old that we have worshipped with – we’ll see them again and we shall know them as we are known, but it will be on a much higher level and glorified state!

Let’s look at **Heb. 12:1** again: The writer is saying that we are compassed about with people who are watching! Can they see a longing in us for Heaven? Can they tell we have a desire to serve the Lord and please Him? Can they see our faithfulness to the House of God? Does our Love for one another shine forth? Do our families know we are truly committed? Do they see us pray and read our Bibles? Children, does our desire for fellowship with God’s people draw us together to Worship the Lord as we eagerly await Jesus’ return?

 Notice the rest of the verse – Let us lay aside every **Weight** and the Sin which doth so easily **beset** us. It sounds like there are things that can easily get in our way that can hinder or slow us down and cause us to lose the Race and not make it to the Finish Line!! Do you know what the word Beset means? It is the things all around us that are at an eye’s glance, at a hands touch! We are continually in earshot of this world’s interests, we are encumbered about with its cares! This world is forever beckoning on every side with its enticements which so easily trips us up. The devil wants to get you off the track, get you out of the race. Your enemy does not want you to reach the goal! If we’re going to run and go all the way to win, we’re going to have to strip for the Race and give our all to God! **Heb. 12:1** - let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

 **2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

What’s the Sweet Holy Ghost saying? We’re in the final Race for our life and He’s saying to have Patience, be not weary in well doing and tire out now – Keep Running, don’t let people or things get in your way to discourage you, Heaven is just around the bend, you’re nearer Home than you’ve ever been! Patience is a virtue, In your Patience possess ye your soul! Keep your eyes focused on the Lord! He is the Author and the Finisher of your Faith. He’s the One who started your Faith! Remember, He started you out a long time ago and He is saying to you today – “Hold on, Keep going and I will Finish your Faith when you step through the Gate!”

HEAVEN – WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE?

 O dear reader, How could you ever describe Heaven or put a definition on Everlasting Life! In comparison to the here and now in this old world, how could you describe Eternity? We are separated only for a moment from that Holy Celestial City where the redeemed are singing and rejoicing in Heaven’s perfect light! It’s just a small thin vail that separates us from our Lord and precious loved ones that we long to see. Can I tell everyone of us – “Just Hold on and Keep running – we’re almost Home.” We’ll soon join the Saved and Sanctified and be united together again – O what a family reunion, O what a happy time that will be when we gather together again!

 Jesus told us to rejoice because our names are written in Heaven. We’ve got a far better place to go! This world is not our home. If we had hope in this life only, we would be of all men most miserable. We’re pilgrims and strangers just passing through, our treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. Soon the lamp of the wicked will go out and they will all go to their place – but the Righteous hath everlasting Hope beyond death and the grave. We’ve got a far better place that is outta this world. The sorrows here will all end and the darkness shall be eclipsed by God’s Eternal light. Soon time will empty into eternity – the natural will give way to the spiritual – this world will pass away and we’ll be at Home with Jesus where the joys will never end! The praises and the Hallelujah’s will ring forth while the eternal ages roll on in the presence of our Lord!

IF YOU COULD SEE ME NOW!

 On June the 18th we lost our Pastor, Brother Jason’s oldest daughter Raelyn McKenzie Paynter in a vehicle accident. This loving young 17 year old is now in the presence of the Lord. She left behind her precious memories of a smiling face at the piano where she played and sang so graceful and beautifully from her heart that brought people to their feet raising their hands in praise. Her graduation has come and now she’s singing with the prettiest smile in Heaven’s choir, with the voice of an angel! Our little Princess has made it Home!! She’s now waiting on us to join her!

 I believe if she could talk to us all now, this is what she would say: “If you could only see me now!! I speak to all my loved ones and my friends – Please keep running, don’t ever let up, don’t ever quit!! When you get to this beautiful place, you will see that it is worth serving the Lord. O the beauty and the riches, the Grandeur and Glory that is here in this wonderful Heavenly place!! There are mansions everywhere, nobody is sick, there’s no sorrow or pain, no one is hurting, everyone who walks the street of Gold is made whole! I can’t describe the Joy that is here where I am – it’s beyond words. The people are beautiful! Smiles radiate from every face. The peace here flows like a river and it never ends.

Just wait when you step inside the gate and feel the Love here – it’s a perfect divine Love that fills this whole city. Preachers, singers and ministers who were faithful are here with glad hearts and their faces are lit with Glory! God’s children are all clothed in the finest robes - we’re all dressed in purest white! O just wait till you get to see and hear Heaven’s choir that is made up of a multitude of singers from every nation – their voices blend together in One heavenly language of Hallelujahs and Praise. The harmony is so glorious that it’s like one giant voice pouring forth from the soul to Him who sits upon the throne, singing – “I’ve been Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb!”

As we all sing and give God praise, little children with smiling faces are playing gleefully in the street. There is nothing here to harm or hurt – not a tear to dim the eye! Everything is so beautiful! If you could only see Jesus, it’s the Grandest of All! Looking into His pure satin face and into His tender eyes is like looking into Wells of living Love! I want to tell you all that I have met Him! He’s brought me safely Home! I’m now in His sweet presence forever to sing with all my heart Redemption’s song!

 I’m now waiting for my precious family and those I love and for all my dear friends to join me. Our Lord walks among us. He leads us to fountains of Living Water. O the beauty of the many flowers in God’s gardens – they are of the brightest hues and colors – so transparent that you can see right through them by the radiant light of God’s Glory shining. They are beyond human words to describe. Everything is full of Life!! The Life of our Creator fills everything here, it fills us, it fills the whole city and nothing ever fades! There is no sense of time here – no one is in a hurry – There are no worries - Eternity fills every minute - it’s one continuous day – there is no night!. Can I tell you all back home – Stay in the Race – Keep running!!”

 As I type this Newsletter, I believe that if you could hear our dear loved ones today, they’re looking over the balcony of Heaven and saying – stay with it, don’t be weary, keep on working, keep singing, keep on preaching and praying, stay in the race – don’t quit. Stay committed and faithful to God! Jesus said if you’ll be faithful, I will give you a Crown of Life! Can you say today – “Lord Jesus, help me to never lose my vision?”

**Rev. 21:2** And I John saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

 **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

 **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

 **5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

May God Bless all my Readers