

"And He cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, 'What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, 'O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." Matthew 26:40-42 KJV



Willing is not always the equivalent of doing. Even our Lord experienced a moment when He said *"O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it..."* He nevertheless pressed onward in the task He had assigned Himself, *"Thy will be done."* We also willingly follow the commandment of our Saviour and must ignore the weaknesses of fleshly hesitation in the task we have assigned ourselves. Our spirit is indeed willing. As Jesus, *"who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,"* a believer must also *"deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow [Jesus]."* The cross was not a pleasant experience as the use of the word "endured" implies. Our life is not always rosy, but we must endure and rejoice in the joy that is set before us. If there is no prize, there is no reason to endure. Athletes strive for mastery by denying themselves that which would hinder them. Their mind is fixed on the finish and being first. The faithful are promised secure rewards just for enduring and remaining steadfast. The race is not to the swift, but to the steadfast. *"Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* We endure by standing. *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* We own the High ground. We are already *"more than conquerors through Christ."* We already stand as victors through the divine gift of faith. We are not defending it, but keeping it. Our armor is our secret weapon. Our Sword is *"The Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God!"* We must now only stand and endure until Jesus carries us away to the Bema Seat where the victor's crowns will be awarded and the redeemed will stand forever in the winner's circle claiming their prize, the Lord Christ. Just as in World War II when the Japanese were defeated, Their leaders had surrendered, but those in the Pacific Islands still fought to the death and our men had to be alert and ready to defend themselves. Their joy? Going home! As the apostle we should *"count all...as...dung that we may win Christ."* We endure, we bear our cross of self-denial, and we follow our Saviour to the blessed *"Joy that is set before us despising the shame..."* What is our Joy? The presence and power of God. What could compare to the touch of the Hand that formed galaxies and affixed the wings of butterflies? What exhilaration will course through us at the *"sound of many waters"* as we hear the Voice of God say, *"Well done!"* We can only begin to imagine the wonders of eternity. It will be worth it all when we see Christ!

Not my will, but Thine be done,
Though I may do it all alone,
As Christ my Lord on Calv'ry's road,
Did bare for all, sin's heavy load. ~CGP

We will never walk alone if we walk in Truth. Our Lord has promised never to leave us alone.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' So that we may boldly say, 'The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me!'" Hebrews 13:5-6 KJV