

## THE WORD FOR 2010

### “ENDURANCE”

Life is analogous to a race. The writer of Hebrews said, *“Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* (Heb.12:1) The secret to running life’s race triumphantly is endurance. The one who endures the various vicissitudes of life is the one who is victorious. The motto of the endurance runner is this: “If the situation cannot be cured, it must be endured.”

To keep pressing onward and ever upward when the track we tread is treacherous, when detractors are cruel and attractions allure, requires an endurance born of faith and fueled by vision. Therefore, let us be ever *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”* (Heb.12:2)

To keep a sweet spirit toward God and fellow-runners along the course, is to be an overcomer. To become bitter is to be beaten. So,

*“Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In every change, He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.”*

- Katharina A. von Schlegel

This race is not to the swift but to the steadfast. It is not a dash but a marathon. The aim is not to finish well ahead of others but to finish well! To be able to say when crossing the finish line, *“I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”* (II Timothy 4:7) is to endure to the end. And, said Jesus, *“He who endures to the end shall be saved.”* (Matthew 24:13)

**JdonJ**