

Inspiration for the weekend - Endurance 9/18/2020 Friday night

This isn't the one I planned to write tonight. That one will need to wait a week, because I realized that if I'm going to suggest the possibility of memorizing scripture, then I need to use the same scripture for at least a week. So, let's ponder together the idea of endurance.

I'm a back of the pack runner. What that means is I'm not the fastest kid on the block. I'm refraining from using the four letter word that rhymes with snow because I promised my friends in the last running group I would never use that word again to describe how I run. But I am. Just for the record.

I run (*ok - on days like today I would describe it as more of a waddle*) simply because it challenges me. It makes me lean into God for help, big time. When folks are out there on the bike path with baby strollers walking faster than I am running... trust me... there's a LOT of prayer going on.

Ok, Mimi, what's your point?

Endurance. That's the point.

The dictionary defines it as **“the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way.”**

Running, for me, is most definitely not always pleasant, and is often difficult. That's part of WHY I do it. I trained for and completed my first marathon when my mother was hospitalized back in 2005, as a celebration of the fact that I was not. I did it simply because I could. Because I had no good excuse not to. So I did. 26.2 miles in the rear view mirror. And today, just 2 miles felt like a marathon.

2020, the year we thought would be full of fun word play on the word vision (*as in the eye doctor type - 20-20 - remember that?*) has turned out to be more of a test of endurance. Yet we ARE still here. And we ARE getting through. And there ARE blessings mid the trials. And we ARE putting one foot in front of the other, one day at a time, step by step. Because we know who it is that carries us, when our own legs, minds, or emotions feel like they can't do it any more. Praise and thanks be to God.

We're already 3 days into the 100 day journey we have agreed to take together.

Endurance. You've got this, with God's help.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. **And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.**