

# CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

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POWER TO THE FAINT

40

SERIES



In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on persevering even when you feel like giving up.

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# City of the Living God



*“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord. Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint” (Isa. 40:28-31).*

Life has its ups and downs—its low points and its high points. As a Christian, we learn to walk by faith and not by sight or feeling. People are emotional beings and sometimes we cannot trust our emotions. Emotions can be deceptive and hard to understand. Even when we do understand our emotions, we know that they are temporal. We can be happy one moment and sad another. There is nothing wrong with being sad or happy. The problem is when we make decisions in the low moments in our lives. It’s like shopping when you’re hungry. That’s not smart since you will be buying food that you really don’t need or that is not healthy, or too much.

Sometimes the feeling of giving up comes to us when we are in the middle of a difficult time in our lives. Isaiah encourages us that God will give us the strength to keep on going. He will give willpower to those that are tired and they will continue on without fainting (stopping).

# EMPOWERMENT

God promises us that if we continue in our walk with him that he will empower us to keep fighting. It is like those runners that run the race and in the last lap they get this extra burst of energy to run.

## **Isaiah 41:10**

*“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”*

## **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

*“And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

## **Philippians 4:12-13**

*“I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

## **Philippians 1:6**

*“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

God is not done with you; he is still writing your story. While you pursue his purpose in your life, you will find that he gives you the strength and power to continue so that you can thrive in this Christian walk.

# REWARD

God promises that if we continue to press forward while we live for him that he will reward us. This is a key for being successful in life. Never give up; just keep pressing forward.

## **Galatians 6:9**

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

## **Hebrews 10:35-36**

*“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”*

## **James 1:12**

*“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”*

## **Philippians 3:12-14**

*“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

It is important that we keep pressing toward the call of God. Some expect that the reward would be almost instantaneous or at least within a very short time. This is not realistic nor is it biblical. God makes it intentional that there is a time that we must wait for it to come to pass. It is during this waiting period that our patience, strength, and endurance are built. Our society that is accustomed to fast-food, fast money, and

fast answers, does not understand very well about patience and perseverance.

## PATIENCE IN WAITING

We are used to acquiring many things in our present day with almost no waiting such as fast-food restaurants. They made it even easier and quicker for us by adding the drive-thru availability. That was not even enough for some, so they created the mobile orders. We can go to these places and just pick up our order that is already prepared for us. We get instant gratification. This has been duplicated throughout our lives with so many other examples. However, that is not how everything in life works.

Think about it. Almost everything in life that has a lot of value requires waiting patiently. Most people have to wait while they save money to purchase a valuable item such as a suit, car, or house. If you are wanting to get married, it takes time to find the right person. Even pursuing your career takes time whether you are attending college, a training institute, or apprenticeship. Good things require time. Since we are so used to getting things quickly, the other things that require time are pushed out or not planned. People are antsy and impatient and give up often on the valuable things of life. God rewards those that with patience endure the test of time.

### **James 5:7-11**

*“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed we count them blessed who endure.*

*You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.”*

So, don't give up ever in your walk with God. Don't make decisions when you are down, depressed, and disillusioned. Stand the test of time. Continue in this fight. Never quit. For in doing so, you will make it to the finish line.

### **Matthew 24:12-13**

*“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”*

### **1 Timothy 6:12**

*“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

### **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

*“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”*

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