



Faith Is ... Living Life as a Procession of Triumph

Closing Devotion

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere (2 Corinthians 2:14).

When the opponents of 19th century British author, John Bunyan, were trying to silence him, they offered him the choice of renouncing his faith or serving a term in prison. He chose the latter and spent twelve years in the Bedford jail. Of that experience he said, "I have determined, the Almighty God being my help and shield, yet to suffer ... rather than violate my faith and principles." Out of Bunyan's imprisonment came the great literary work *Pilgrim's Progress*. What a blessing!

That was what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote, *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession*. That was the spirit of Paul. His life was a series of hardships, but he regarded them as blessings. He was able to remain thankful because he knew that God was leading him.

We may be facing all kinds of hardships, yet because of our faith, we can be content in spirit. Our reward: God is with us. Our life becomes a *triumphal procession* when it is lived in Christ.

Prayer: O Lord, in all situations and circumstances, give us faith that is stronger than steel and more durable than diamonds. In Christ's name. Amen.

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Written by Rev. Darold Reiner
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