

FROM PRESIDENT DEBBIE

Enduring — with Joy — by His Grace



Debbie (center) pictured with her sister Kathy and her brother Allan.

*For the Lord
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steadfast
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and his
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to all
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Psalm 100:5

Do any of us like to “endure”? Wouldn’t we rather have a stress-free life with easy decisions? Our Lord did not promise us an easy life. He promised that He will be with us always and that He has overcome the world. Christ doesn’t just make enduring easier — He promises a life filled with joy. As He gave us the Great Commission, He included this promise, “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b).

When I was in fifth grade, I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). There were several years when walking was almost impossible. I have taken many medications and endured many surgeries because of the effects of RA. In 2014, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I am now, by the grace of God, cancer free. I believe I am able to endure life’s challenges partly because my parents taught me and my siblings to trust that God was in control.

Together, we continue to endure through a pandemic. As Christians, we endure criticism as we battle racism and sanctity of life and marriage issues. We certainly battle our own sinful desires. Each day, the Lord equips us to endure. He equips us with His Word, His Sacraments, supportive family and friends, and His Son. Jesus walks beside us.

The word “endure” seems to have negative connotations, but it is actually a very positive word. We can endure! We do so, in our weakness, because we have an all-powerful God. The Bible tells us God’s love endures forever — over and over. Here are some verses I love:

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! (1 Chronicles 16:34).

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations (Psalm 100:5).

“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal” (John 6:27).

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).

We can endure because Jesus endured for us, shown in Hebrews 12:2: *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

It’s true, our Lord did not promise us an easy life, but we are blessed by a God who walks beside us through it all. Jesus said, in John 16:33, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

May the God of peace be with you all. Amen (Romans 15:33).



Debbie Larson