

Run with perseverance the race marked out for you



We acknowledge that the life and the world we're living in presents us with many challenges. We understand that people get tired, frustrated and may want to give up occasionally. We recognize all the trauma in the lives of the children and the difficulties you've all lived or are currently experiencing.

But, in spite all of that, we believe God chose you to love and educate a different kind of child or siblings. If God allowed it, it's because He had a good purpose. Sometimes we cannot see it in the moment, but the hope of what's to come is what helps us many times to keep going. Know that you're not alone and you're not the only one with this kind of struggles at this moment.

Many times we express to others out of personal experiences and theory, to not give up. That if you persevere you will reap. But the reality is, there are some stories that won't end in a "happily ever after" according to our human perspective or expectation.

There are some placements that haven't worked, and the children had to be returned to a group home or orphanage, sometimes more than once. And you hurt for them, because you know this creates more obstacles for the next family, willing to receive them, love them and care for them.

There are also some children that have been hurt so much, that they don't know other ways of relating than with hurt. And it hurts, hurts deeply. Sometimes you have thoughts that bring sadness, guilt, evil. And the truth is that we all have evil, sin, weaknesses, difficulties and we need so much hope, forgiveness, healing, love, grace, mercy and support.

And that is all summarized in LOVE. Love like the one we receive from God, if we're willing to receive it of course. Love that forgives, that never gives up. Love that perseveres, that disciplines and that doesn't keep record of our wrongdoing. God doesn't give up on us, and he never tells us to walk away when we come to Him in repentance, He always receives us and shows us compassion. Why are we so

judgmental and harsh to our children? When God has always been so merciful to us?

Besides the difficulties in our family, we have all those other things going on around us. Whether at home, extended family, health, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc. Let's remember to go back to our Safe Place, that's in God's hands. The One who will sustain us during the storms within or outside. He promised that everything works together for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purposes.

The practical step this time will simply be to remind you to write down, not just think about it, but take a minute each day to write down something good about your children, one of their gifts, a strengths, or a good trait you want to declare and see in their lives. Do the exercise of thinking about it and jot it down.

Choose to forgive all their failures. Everyday. Let us all choose to change our way of thinking, perceiving and responding.

It is very likely that we will end up changing more than they will. And this is how we also thank God for His mercy towards us, because he sent these children to help us be molded according to that which will bring greater glory and honor to God.

What does the Word say?

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. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

Hebrews 12:1-3

May our Lord help us to look beyond our circumstances, and persevere each day in the midst of trials and difficulties. May He renew our strength, love and compassion.
In Jesus name, Amen

