

the final stretch

"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." isa 41:10

if you pass through raging waters in the sea,  
you shall not drown.  
if you walk amid the burning flames,  
you shall not be harmed.  
if you stand before the pow'r of hell  
and death is at your side,  
know that I am with you through it all.

be not afraid.  
I go before you always;  
come follow me,  
and I will give you rest.

"there remains therefore a rest for the people of God."  
heb 4:9 we are to strive to enter that rest; that  
eternal rest from all strife and anxiety. it won't be  
by works or efforts, but by faith, obedience and  
submission. there is a stanza to a song i wrote years  
ago that might say it best.

there remains a sabbath rest,  
that I will lead you to.  
it's where all your works have ended,  
and My Spirit reigns in you.

none of us know what lies before us this year or what  
all we may have to endure before our Lord receives us

to Himself, but this one thing i know! when that crimson flow dropped to the earth below, it fell for each of us who believe, and He will never leave us or forsake us or relax His hold on us.

friends, i believe with all my heart that we are in the final stretch. we have rounded the last turn and the finish line is now in sight. it's time to reach within and muster that grace reserved for this time. see that no one takes your prize from you; "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." phil 3:14

beloved ones, it is my heart's desire "to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith." 1 thes 3:2 each and every one of you. let us look to the rock from which we were hewn and stand confident in our faith in Jesus! "now i myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." rom 15:14