

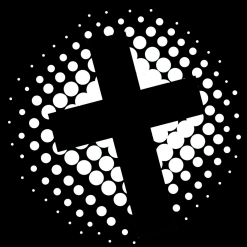
# The Labor of the Cross

Good Friday

PASTOR MARK STERLACE

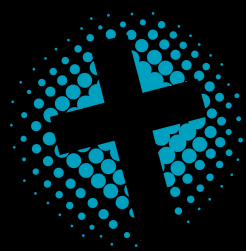
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April 7th, 2023



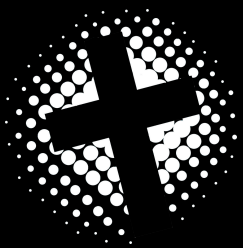
The Cross was a Holy construction site—God at work—where He labored with all His strength to accomplish something of gargantuan proportions for us.

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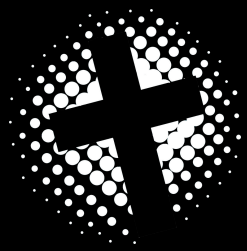
Isaiah called the Cross  
a labor of love when  
He prophesied that  
the Father would  
look upon Jesus, “See  
the labor of His soul,  
and be satisfied”  
(Isaiah 53:11)





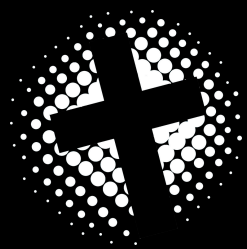
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Calvary was  
the marathon;  
Resurrection  
was the  
awards  
ceremony.





Jesus said so when He spoke of the Cross as childbirth: “A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world”

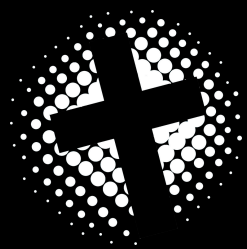


[JOHN 16:21]



On the Cross, Jesus was laboring to birth the redemption of humanity.

When He had completed His assignment, He Resurrected and said, "Rejoice!" because the church was born



[MATTHEW 28:9]

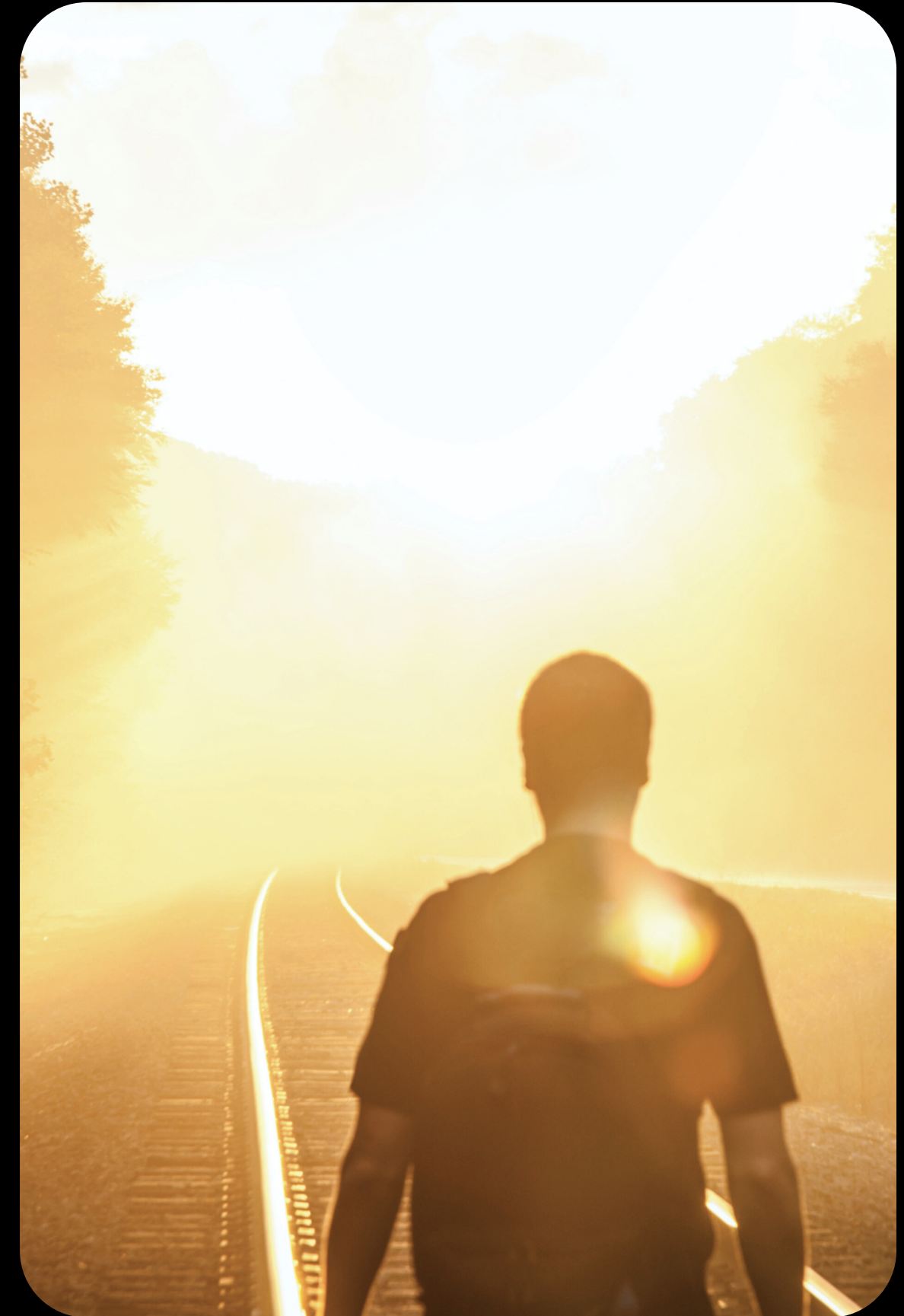
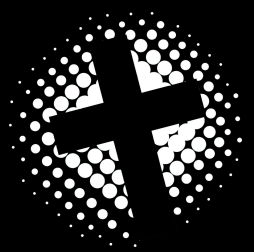




[LUKE 9:23]

Jesus Said,

“If anyone desires to  
come after Me, let  
him deny himself,  
and take up his cross  
daily, and follow Me.”

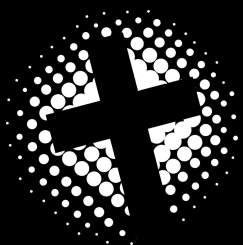




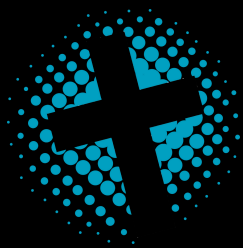
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[Hebrews 12:2]

“Looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”



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1. For Jesus, it meant the Cross;
  2. For Job, it meant crushing losses;
  3. For Caleb, it meant a forty-year wilderness.



Endurance Makes Us  
Perfect and Complete  
By Enduring on the  
Cross in holiness, Jesus  
prevailed to open the  
scroll of the Father's  
destiny for the age to  
come



[REVELATION 5:5]







And now He says to you,

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”

[REVELATION 3:21]

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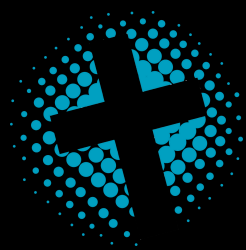




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“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces Endurance. But let Endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”

**JAMES 1:2-4**

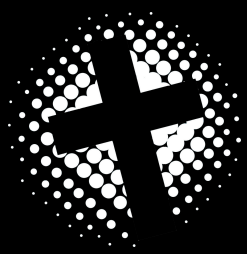




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## The first key is in knowing [James 1:3]

1. James said we need to know something.
2. The only way to be joyful in trials is through divine understanding.
3. We need to know Gods purpose in trials.

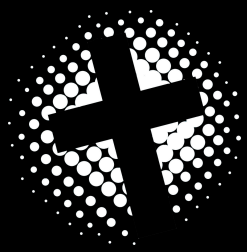




Jesus was able to endure the  
Cross because He knew  
something:

“By His knowledge My  
righteous Servant shall justify  
many, for He shall bear their  
iniquities”

[ISAIAH 53:11]





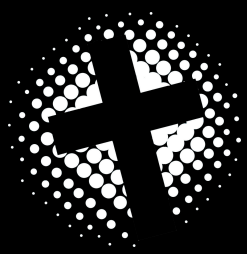


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What do we need to know?

[James answered that in verse 3,]

*“Knowing that the testing of  
your faith produces endurance.”*





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What is endurance?

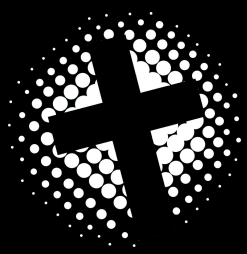
[I get my definition from James 1:3-4]

*“Endurance is faith sustained over time, in the face of adversity.”*



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When you Endure in faith through fiery trials,  
You have the potential to come through the  
trial perfect in knowledge, perfect in the fruit of  
the Spirit, complete in the gifts of the Spirit,  
perfect in faith and power, perfect in servant  
hood and humility, perfect in righteousness and  
holiness—lacking nothing of the fullness of God.





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If James 1:2 is the toughest verse in the Bible, then James 1:4 is the biggest promise:

*“That you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

