



CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

*CtK in Worship—Empowerment to Grow—Relationships Bring Life—Honor in Service
In His Presence—Sharing Jesus in Love—CtK in Mission*

Day 9—Monday, August 20th

Empowerment to Grow

Prayer Focus—Prayer Partners

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)

This mortal life we lead, though so often abundant in immense blessings from our Father in heaven, can be absolutely exhausting sometimes. Can't it? Sometimes, I liken my days to that of a marathon. I often feel like I am running a long race that doesn't have an end in sight. On days like these, I desperately long for a break from the race. And, typically for me, when I am weary, burdened, overwhelmed, or desperate for a break, the last thing I want is to be patient and wait on God. My human instinct is to try to figure out how to solve my weaknesses myself. I don't know about you, but I'm usually not very good at that. I wind up creating more problems that lead to even more weariness or, I get even more frustrated and burnt out than I would have had I just given it to God in the first place.

In this passage, the prophet Isaiah is providing comfort to the people of Israel during a turbulent and uncertain period of time. He reassures them that their patience will not be in vain; that the Lord will come through and carry them through the trials they were facing. We can apply this today by recognizing that we, too, are called to wait patiently for the Lord. He sees our trials; he knows them even better than we do. As we wait in our faith, in trusting that God's sovereignty will prevail, we can rest assured that we *will* be victorious in defeating any and all challenges. We will be given renewed hope and courage, and our weariness will be replaced with his strength. Furthermore, when we allow him in, we can learn and grow from our struggles in precisely the ways he desires. Through our growth, we get closer to the Christ-like image he has planned for each of us! Better yet, simply having the knowledge that through steady patience and faith, our strength will be renewed by the Lord allows us to walk through life empowered—we can rest in the full awareness that God has never left our side and that he never will. So, with God working for us and never against us, what can possibly stand in our way? What can we not conquer, regardless of how weary we may feel at times? The obvious answer is *nothing*!

Lord, thank you so much for never leaving my side even when I am weary and burdened. Thank you for providing strength in my daily life that can only come from you. Please remind me daily to patiently look to you in faith for strength and endurance to prevail forward; no matter what challenges or trials are in front of me. Thank you for our prayer partners at CtK. Please empower them with the perfect words and prayers so that they may bless others in order to glorify you. In your holy name I pray, Amen.

Lauren Beard



Christ the King
CHURCH