



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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"Brothers and sisters, pray for us." I Thessalonians 5:25

I've never been a fan of air travel – packing everything into a suitcase, going through the security checks, waiting, bored, in an airport until it's time to sit a cramped airplane for hours on end. I put up with it all, though, because the destination makes it worthwhile. This past week, I endured the coast-to-coast journey out to California so that I could be with my family. My flights got bumpy at times, due to the turbulence that's inevitable up there, 35,000 feet above the Earth's surface. It's just part of the process. If it had been my first flight, I might have panicked when the plane tipped up and down under the pressure, but I have flown often enough to be able to remain calm, confident in the skill of trained pilots who knew what they were doing.



When we are young in Christ, the inevitable ups and downs of life can terrify us and cause us to question whether or not we will actually make it to our heavenly destination. As we mature in him, we come to accept the reality that these highs and lows will be a constant fixture of our walk with God, and we grow in faith toward the One who is in control; –who had but to speak the words, "Peace! Be still!" to calm both the storm and his disciples.

Wherever we are on the journey, let us focus on the destination, which is what makes the turbulence that all Christians face worthwhile. Most of all, let us focus on our Pilot, who is still in control and is able to keep us to the uttermost. He has never lost a passenger!

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

(I Corinthians 4:16–18)

Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!

In 2025, as always, we rely on God, our navigator and pilot. Thank you, fellow travelers, for joining us on this journey by praying alongside us! Please agree with us for:

- a fresh word from God during our month of prayer and fasting,
- the new avenues of ministry and collaboration that God wants to open this year,
- more people called to and excited about ministry in Tioga/Nicetown, and
- God's continued grace and supply for everything that goes into operating the academy and the church.

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Let's make a new year's resolution to keep in touch! We're always delighted when we hear from you, to share your news or prayer requests – or just to chat!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did You Know?

A Boeing 747 airplane is made up of over six million parts. Almost all of them are individually identified and tracked by a serial number, so that, if any issues are uncovered in manufacturing somewhere down the line, all affected parts can be traced to the aircraft onto which they were installed.

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Luke 12:6,7)



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