**FUNERAL MESSAGE FOR A BELIEVER 2**

Times like these are definitely tough times in our lives. (Name or names of immediate Family of the deceased ) I want you and the entire family to know that we are praying for you and lifting you up to the throne of God.

Although words have the ability to touch are hearts and even bring a degree of comfort, God’s word brings comfort and peace that cannot be equaled.

Death for one of God’s children is not the end, it is only the beginning. It is a promotion.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been promoted.

For loved ones that go on before us, their promotion, although awesome for them, is difficult for us.

So what do we do to get through times like this.

Paul told Timothy in:

2 Timothy 4:6-8 “**[6](http://bible.cc/2_timothy/4-6.htm)**For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. [**7**](http://bible.cc/2_timothy/4-7.htm)I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [**8**](http://bible.cc/2_timothy/4-8.htm)Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

1. In verse 7 Paul said “I have fought the good fight” so we must KEEP FIGHTING!

Fighting the GOOD fight for ourselves and for others

Phil. 3:12 “[**12**](http://bible.cc/philippians/3-12.htm)Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

There will be times of hurt, pain, discouragement, and even depression maybe. And during the mourning process these are all natural things that we go through but we cannot stay there forever. We must continue to fight. For one another, with one another, but never against one another.

For the battle only brings us closer together with the ones that fight with us.

1. Paul also said I have finished the race so we must KEEP RUNNING

And if we run, we must run with intention, with a goal in mind.

We must run to win.

1 Corinthians 9:24 “[**24**](http://bible.cc/1_corinthians/9-24.htm)Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

And as you continue to run this race you can rest assured that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ along with Jesus who is ever interceding for us are both cheering us on.

Running is exercise and exercise is not always easy. Running also conditions. So as we continue to run, we eventually find ourselves in better condition.

Some people run on treadmills while others run outside for the scenery.

As you run, thoughts and memories of times with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will add to or be your scenery. And I want to encourage you, don’t run away from that scenery, but allow it to bring inspiration to you as you run to the Heavenly Father.

1. Lastly, Paul said “I have kept the faith.” We too must KEEP THE FAITH.

Hebrews chapter 11, known as the faith chapter, is a list of amazing things done by ordinary people because of their faith.

There will be times you will ask yourselves, “How will I ever get through this?” In time you will be able to look back and say “Amazingly I made it through because of faith.”

We must also keep the faith because it enables us to live a life pleasing to God.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

As we please God with our faith, He is pleased to bring us the strength, the peace, the comfort that we so desperately need in times like these, as well as return the joy that we have walked in before this loss.

CLOSING: It is as we keep fighting, keep running, and in keeping the faith, that we are assured of seeing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and our loved ones who have gone on before us again. But more importantly, it assures us of seeing Jesus when He returns, and living with him forever.

Let’s pray.