There Is Laid Up For Me The Crown Of Righteousness

The Apostle Paul was confident in the life he had lived for Christ. As his life is drawing to a close, he writes, "I have fought the good fight... I have kept the faith... finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness..." (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Obviously Paul faced dangers, spiritual and physical, as he lived the life of a Christian. He and other writers provide Christian's with instructions designed to alert them of the dangers they face in remaining faithful to the Lord. The warnings recorded are not meant to discourage us, but rather to help us understand that navigating the straight and narrow road will present difficulties. Thus, with preparation, the journey can be managed through what God provides. The following passages provide us with directive inspiration:

1. Fight the good fight to lay hold on to eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12).
2. Run in a such a manner that you may receive the crown (1 Corinthians 9:24).
3. Press toward the goal for the prize (Philippians 3:14).
4. Strive to enter the strait gate (Luke 13:24).
5. Take heed lest you fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).
6. Be diligent be found without spot and blameless (2 Peter 3:14).
7. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12).
8. Be sober, vigilant for the devil seeks to devour you (1 Peter 5:8).
9. Fear lest you come short of entering (Hebrews 4:2).
10. Take heed lest you depart from the living God (Hebrews 3:12).
11. Watch that you may be ready (Matthew 24:42-44).
12. Watch lest He find you sleeping (Mark 13:36-37).
13. Take heed lest your heart be weighed down (Luke 21:34).
14. Pray that you may not enter into temptation (Luke 22:40).
15. Do not grow weary and you will reap (Galatians 6:9).

Remember, God wants us to be successful. He wants to reward us with Heaven. He sent His Son to die for us that we should not perish (John 3:16). He provides us a promised way of escape when the devil tempts us (1 Corinthians 10:13). He promises us that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). Moreover, He promises us that if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us (James 4:8).