

## Let Us Run With Endurance!

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV)

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

We are told right off the bat that without faith it is impossible to please God.

Without faith you cannot finish the race!

Chapter 11 speaks to us from the lives of those who, although had human frailties, have endured to the finish.

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the prostitute Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, etc.

Hebrews 12:1a - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside EVERY WEIGHT, and sin which CLINGS SO CLOSELY, and LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE the race that is SET BEFORE US,

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV) - Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS and the sin

that SO EASILY ENTANGLES. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Hebrews 12:2 – looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3-4

3. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

1. He endured the cross, and is now exalted to the right hand of God.

2. He drew much opposition from sinners against himself, as those whom Paul wrote would need to do.

3. He went beyond them in his trials and temptations, beyond anything that they had dealt with because He had "resisted sin to the point of shedding His blood".

Why was Jesus such a great finisher?

He never lost sight of his finish line!

His finish line was Gods will for His life!

"Not my will but yours be done."

So, what's our finish line?

James 1:4 – (CEB) Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing.

What is endurance?

Endurance means that, even when you don't feel like you can go on...

You make the choice by the grace of God to keep going!

"Endurance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did!"

Each one of us must look at our lives and ask...

What is God working on in my life?

What does he want me to endure in?

What is He trying to accomplish in me so that He can accomplish something through me?

What do I need to do to finish this race?

How can I be like Jesus Christ so I will finish strong in this area of my life?

One of the last things that Jesus said on the cross was, "It is finished"!

He then was able to say, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

1 Cor. 9:24-27 (ESV)

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Phil. 3:12-16 (ESV)

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (MSG) - Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have FINISHED THE RACE, I have kept the faith.

8 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.

No matter what direction life takes you, stay in the race of faith!