



Lord, Help My Faith—Part 2

Hebrews 12:1-4 (NASB) *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin.*

Four Motivations to Keep Going... (Continued)

1) Consider the witnesses.

2) Fix YOUR EYES on Jesus.

Verse 2 – Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter (completer) of our faith.

- **HIS PROMISE:** Philippians 1:6 (NLT) And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.
- **HIS EXPERIENCE:** Hebrews chapter 12, verse 3, "consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself," so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

John 15:18 (NASB) *If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-12 (NASB) *and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him;"⁶ for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son who he receives."⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...⁸ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.¹² Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble...*

3) TRUST the Fatherly, sovereignty of God.

- **COACH:** The word "trained" in verse 11 is where we get the word gymnasium.

- **FATHER:** The word "discipline" in this text has to do with how a good father disciplines a child.

Punishment is being paid back for the wrong you have done. Discipline is a loving attempt to mold character which may involve pain, but the goal is not retribution, it is formation. Consequences are the natural results from bad decisions.

4) FOCUS on the JOY.

Hebrews 12, verse 2, "who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despised the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

People of faith are those who are so consumed by the vision of eternity that they will gladly give up their lives here for the joy of what they obtain there.

Additional Notes:

scriptures that relate

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| Monday: Philippians 1 | Wednesday: John 14 | Friday: Hebrews 11 |
| Tuesday: Philippians 2 | Thursday: John 15 | Saturday: Hebrews 12 |

small groups—talk it over

1. Who are some of the great biblical witnesses you look to for help and support?
2. Who are some of the giant witnesses, in your life on this earth, that cheer you on?
3. Where do you fix your eyes when life gets hard?
4. When you think about what Christ has done for you, how does that give you perspective in your own life?
5. What kind of message does the cross send to you?

pastor nathan's prayer requests

Monday: Pray for VBS starting June 19. Pray for fun, safety and transformed lives.

Tuesday: Pray for Pastor Brian as he prepares the message God is giving him.

Wednesday: Pray for our discipleship classes and small groups.

Thursday: Pray for the Worship Arts department as we plan to deliver God's Word through art.

Friday: Pray for the youth and children in our church to be an impact to those around them.

Saturday: Pray for our weekend services and those attending.