

Endure to the Finish!

Hebrews 12:1-17

Big Idea: Remember the witnesses around you, look to Jesus, and run with endurance.

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. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ... ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Big Idea: Remember the witnesses around you, look to Jesus, and run with endurance.

Run With Endurance!

1. Remember the witnesses (Heb 11; 12:1).
2. Look to Jesus (vv. 1-3).
3. Struggle against sin (vv. 4-13). 2. Receive discipline and consistently seek to improve (vv. 4-13).
4. Run together (vv. 14-17).

1. Remember the witnesses (Heb 11; 12:1).

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,

If God used them, he can use you (Heb 11).

- Noah got drunk, naked, and cursed his descendants (Gen 9).
- Abraham doubted God (Gen 17) and His protection (12) twice (20).
- Jacob tricked his brother and deceived their father (Gen 27).
- Moses murdered an Egyptian (Ex 2) and disobeyed God (Num 20).
- Rahab was a prostitute (Josh 2).
- Gideon wanted proof, waited for night, and set up an idol (Jdg 6-8).
- David abused his authority, committed adultery & murder (2Sa 11).

Run with endurance

- i. Believe that God can use you for his purposes.
- ii. Persist in faith (Heb 11).
- iii. Identify the weights in your life (Ps 51; 139).
- iv. Repent and ask forgiveness.

2. Look to Jesus (vv. 2-3).

let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking 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. ³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary** or fainthearted.

Jesus: the founder and perfecter of our faith.

- i. The highest revelation (1).
- ii. Superior to Angels (1-2).
- iii. The one Moses serves (3).
- iv. Highest High Priest and greater priesthood (3; 7).
- v. Made a better atonement/covenant (8:7-13).
- vi. Better tabernacle, sacrifice, temple (8:2-10:18).

Consider Jesus so you don't grow weary.

- i. Jesus died to make us his brothers (2:9-11).
- ii. He was tempted like us (2:18)
- iii. Builder & cornerstone (3:3; 1Pt 2:4-5).
- iv. From his weakness he sympathizes with ours (4:15).
- v. Deals gently with ignorant and wayward (5:2).
- vi. He understands "loud cries and tears" (5:7).
- vii. Endured hostility and the cross (12:2).
- viii. Seated at the right hand of the throne of God (12:3).

3. Struggle against sin (vv. 4-13).

⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. [But Jesus did, for you]. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? My son, do not regard lightly the discipline [DISCIPLESHIP] of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ... ¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

There's purpose in your struggle.

- i. We struggle against sin to grow in our faith (v. 4; Jam 1:2f).
- ii. Discipline produces “peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (v. 11).
- iii. Discipline/suffering only lasts a short time (cf. 2Co 4:17).
- iv. Discipline displays sonship (vv. 7-10).

Knowing there's purpose in our struggles
renews our commitment to the race!

“¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (vv. 12-13; *cf.* 1Co 9:24f).

4. Strive for peace, together (vv. 14-17).

¹⁴ Strive for **peace** with everyone, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

see to it “expresses a special regard for those who of those who occupy a position of responsibility as a physician or a superintendent (Westcott)

Holiness = drawing near with a clean heart and genuine acceptance of Christ’ sacrifice.

Strive for peace and holiness.

- i. Looking to Jesus (Heb 12:2; Lk 9:62) .
- ii. In community with other believers, trusting God.
- iii. Dealing gently with the ignorant and wayward (v. 5:2).
- iv. Because Jesus guarantees mercy and grace (4:16).

‘sympathize’ → “to share the experience of someone” “the word is not to be understood in a psychological, but in an existential sense. The exalted one suffers together with the weakness of the one tempted”

Context is still connected to the rebellion in Numbers 14 where they didn’t trust God.

Watch out for peace thieves.

- i. Immaturity, failure, falling short (v. 15a).
- ii. Roots of bitterness; defilement (15b; Deut 29:18).
- iii. Treating holy things as unholy (v. 16a).
- iv. Putting comfort before Kingdom (v. 16b-17).

Today, look to Jesus, and run with endurance.