

Up From Slavery

A man / A people / A plan

RUNNING THE RACE OF FAITH
HEBREWS 12:1-3

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- 1) 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,

2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3) Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary or lose heart.

A. We should be encouraged by our predecessors in the race. (1a)

Hebrews 12:1a

- 1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...

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1. Our preparation

Hebrews 12:1b

- 1) 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.

As we run the race of faith, we need to throw off those things that threaten to throw us off-course.

A. We should be encouraged by our predecessors in the race. (1a)

B. We need to persevere in the race. (1b)

1. Our preparation

2. Our endurance

Hebrews 12:1b

- 1) 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,

**The race of faith is a 26-mile marathon,
not a 100 meter dash.**

C. We need power for the race. (2-3)

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1. The source (2a)

Hebrews 12:2a

- 2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

- 1)** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- 6)** And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Hebrews 11:24-27

By faith, Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; **for he was looking to the reward.**

By faith, he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

To persevere in the race of faith, we must keep focused on the person of Jesus Christ.

C. We need power for the race. (2-3)

1. The source (2a)

2. The example (2b-3)

Hebrews 12:2b-3

- 2) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3) Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary or lose heart.

In the race of faith, we must endure the trials before we experience the triumph.

To Go . . .

1. What things are there in your life that might be hindering you in your Christian walk? Why is that so and what is the solution?

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1. What things are there in your life that might be hindering you in your Christian walk? Why is that so and what is the solution?
2. Why is it sometimes easy to “grow weary” in following Christ, or even be tempted to “give up” on living the Christian life?

To Go . . .

3. As you face adversity or as you see the overwhelming problems in the world, where do you turn for hope, encouragement, and strength?
 - Are those places helpful or harmful?
 - Why?

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