

Fortifying our Faith

Keeping our Eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2 *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. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (NIV).*

(See Hebrews 11:32-40)

Hebrews 12:1 *Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles*

IF we are to stay strong in our faith **THEN** we need to *put off* anything that can *hinder our faith!*

1. Throw off what is unnecessary
2. Get rid of ungodly influences
3. Choose friends who are committed to the race
4. Stop activities that hinder
5. Get help for disabling addictions

Live By Faith And Not By Feelings

Hebrews 12:1 *...let us run with endurance this race that God has set before us.*

Running the race involves:

- Preparation
- Participation
- Perseverance

God is more interested in how we **FINISH** the race than how we **START** the race

Hebrews 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...*

Fix our eyes on Jesus involves discipline and intention. It means that we CHOOSE to look intensely at Jesus and not the distractions.

Hebrews 12:2 ...*the author and perfecter of our faith...*

The *Author* [of our faith]: (*archegon*) Our Champion!

The *Perfecter* of our Faith: (*teleiotes*) The Finisher!

Hebrews 12:2 ...*who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- Jesus is our example on how to endure trials
- Jesus took on our sin, rose and ascended for US!
- Jesus is exalted to the place of highest honor