







Wednesday 6:30pm Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 11:30am

The Cathedral 2223 Capitol Avenue Sacramento, CA 95816

Children And Youth Complex (CYC) **And Mailing Address** 2150 Capitol Avenue Sacramento, CA 95816

First Time Guests Text Your Full Name to: 916.581.2676

After celebration stop by the room off the foyer to meet the pastor and receive your gift.

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"BY FAITH I..."

A FOCUSED FAITH

Hebrews 12:1-3; James 1:2-4

FREE YOURSELF

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews the Apostle Paul provides us with a list of *influential* faith walkers, who have blazed a trail for those of us who are currently on this faith journey and those who are to come.

In Hebrews 12:1 Paul gives us clear <u>instructions</u> as faith runners to "lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us". In this statement he is letting us know that the preparation for this race <u>rests</u> on us. Carrying unnecessary weight can and will distract, frustrate and could cause the runner to quit. All distractions and traps that we have brought on ourselves must be first be eliminated.

A TRIED FAITH

Webster defines endurance as the fact or power of enduring an unpleasant or difficult process or situation without giving way. The root word for endurance is endure which simply means to suffer. In the last part of the first verse Paul tells us to run with endurance and in James 1:3 he *informs* us what produces endurance. We can't desire great faith like those who ran before us and not be willing to do what it takes to *obtain* it.

EYES FRONT

We have been conditioned as people to always watch where we are going. We are focused on our surroundings and not focused on what's in front of us. When your eyes are focused on what's ahead you can't be swayed by the *calamity* around you. Because Jesus' eyes were always set on what was ahead, neither the *suffering* nor the shame could compare to the result at the end of the cross.

THE EXAMPLE

For just about everything that is done in life there is an example or pattern to follow. In this faith walk we have Jesus whose *purpose* wasn't just to reconcile us back to our Father but to experience weakness and temptation to prove to us it is possible to overcome (Heb 4:15). Let us never lose sight of the *example* that Jesus left for us to follow and to remember we are not alone on this journey.

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