

**Series:** The Faith of Our Fathers, a study in Hebrews

**Sermon:** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...”

**Primary Text:** Hebrews 12:1-13

**Discussion guide:**

- Who are some people in your life that inspire your faith?
- What is faith?
- Read Hebrews 12:1
  - What does it mean that we are “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”?
- What is the primary command of verse 1?
  - What does it mean to “run the race”?
  - What is the significance of “endurance”?
  - What is the significance of “set before us”?
- Why is “laying aside” sin essential to running with endurance?
- Read Hebrews 12:4
  - What does this tell you about the intensity with which you should battle sin? (see Matthew 5:29-30)
- Read Hebrews 12:5-11
  - Why should we be encouraged by the discipline of the Lord?
  - How does the Lord discipline us?
  - Scholars agree that at least part of what Hebrews means by the discipline of the Lord has to do with enduring difficult circumstances – not a specific sin. How does God use difficult circumstances to grow us? (see James 1:2-4)
    - Does this mean God causes all hardships?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-3
  - What does it mean to look to or consider Jesus?
  - Why does the writer make the point that Jesus is the “Founder and Perfector” of the faith? How does this compare Jesus with all the people mentioned in chapter 11?
  - What was the joy set before Jesus?
  - Can Jesus be the joy set before you and I?
    - How can we develop such an affection for Christ?