



## **WHY IS LIFE SO HARD?**

At War – Pt 1

Pastor Craig Coulter

- Faith doesn't spare us from all pain!
- Some of God's promises will be fulfilled in eternity!
- We are runners in a – **“historical relay race!”**

*THEREFORE, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin!*  
(Hebrews 12:1-4 NLT)

### **1. Remember – HEAVEN IS WATCHING ME.**

*THEREFORE, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith... (Hebrews 12:1a)*

### **2. I must – ELIMINATE WHAT DOESN'T MATTER.**

*...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress... (Hebrews 12:1b)*

WEIGHTS:

SINS:

### **3. Run – GOD'S RACE FOR ME.**

*And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. (Hebrews 12:1c)*

**4. Focus – ON JESUS – NOT MY CIRCUMSTANCES.**

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. (Hebrews 12:2a)

**5. Minimize – THE PAIN AND MAXIMIZE THE PROFIT.**

He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his AFTERWARD. NOW he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven! (Hebrews 12:2b)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest IF we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9 NIV)

**6. Think about – WHAT GOD DID FOR ME.**

Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin! (Hebrews 12:3-4)

**What have I started that I need to finish?**

Finish what you started a year ago... for you were the first to begin doing something about it! Now you should carry this project through to completion just as enthusiastically as you began it. Give whatever you can according to what you have! (2 Corinthians 8:10-11 NLT)

Don't throw it all away now. You were sure of yourselves then. It's still a sure thing! But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plan so you'll be there for the promised completion. (Hebrews 10:35-36 MSG)