

Sunday, August 17, 2025

5-Day Devotional: Running the Race of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-2

Based on the sermon “By Faith: The Race of Faith” from Hebrews 12:1-3, this devotional explores the Christian life as an “agonizing” yet rewarding race. Each day builds on the encouragements to Remember, Remove, Run, and Regard, helping you apply these truths to endure in faith.

Day 1: Understanding the Race

Devotional:

The Christian life isn’t a leisurely stroll but a demanding race, much like the ancient pentathlon—full of challenges, endurance tests, and even agony. As the author of Hebrews reminds us, faith doesn’t make life easier; it equips us to persevere through hardships because Jesus is worth it. Today, reflect on how your faith journey mirrors this race: it’s hard, but it’s part of a greater story where God works through our struggles for His glory.

Passage to Read: Hebrews 12:1-3

Quote: “The point is... it was indeed an ‘agonizing’ event. And the author of Hebrews is likening the Christian life of faith to that!!!” – From the sermon

Discussion Questions:

1. How does viewing the Christian life as a race change your perspective on daily challenges?
2. Why do you think the author compares faith to something “agonizing” rather than easy?

3. What personal “race” are you currently running, and how does knowing Jesus is “better” encourage you?

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling me into this race of faith. Help me see my life not as a burden but as an opportunity to glorify You. Give me strength to start strong, knowing Jesus is worth every step. Amen.

Day 2: Remember the Witnesses

Devotional:

We are surrounded by a “cloud of witnesses”—not spectators watching us, but pacesetters like Abel, Noah, Abraham, and modern faithful like Charles Spurgeon or Billy Graham. Their lives testify that faith in God leads to perseverance. Remember, you’re part of a timeless story; your race inspires others. Let these examples push you to run with deeper faith, hearing their witness: “Keep going... He’s worth it!”

Passage to Read: Hebrews 11:1-40 (focus on verses highlighting key figures)

Quote: “It is what we see in them, not what they see in us!” – James Moffatt

Discussion Questions:

1. Who are some “pacesetters” in your life—biblical or personal—that inspire your faith?
2. How does remembering you’re part of a greater story motivate you during tough times?
3. What might your race say to future generations about trusting God?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the cloud of witnesses who have gone before me. Help me learn from their faith and perseverance. May their stories strengthen me to run my race well, passing the baton of faith to others. Amen.

Day 3: Remove Weights and Sin

Devotional:

To run effectively, we must “lay aside every weight and sin.” Weights are lesser loves—morally neutral things like hobbies, social media, or even good pursuits—that hinder our endurance when they become ultimate. Sin clings closely, rooted in lust of the eyes, flesh, or pride. Aggressively throw them off! By removing these, we make room for the feast God offers, running unhindered toward Christ.

Passage to Read: Romans 8:12-13

Quote: “There is no saint so holy but that he realizes he has certain tendencies, which if allowed to control him, would lead to the breakdown of his testimony.” – Harry Ironside

Discussion Questions:

1. What “lesser loves” in your life might be acting as weights, slowing your spiritual race?
2. How does sin “cling closely” to you, and what steps can you take to put it to death?
3. Why do morally neutral things often do more harm to faith than obvious sins?

Closing Prayer:

Father, reveal the weights and sins hindering my race. Give me courage to throw them off aggressively, seeking Your grace and community for healing. Help me hunger for You above all else. Amen.

Day 4: Run with Endurance**Devotional:**

We’re called to “run with endurance the race set before us”—no shortcuts, no sidelines. Your path is unique, including trials that build strength. Endurance comes from discipline: daily time in God’s Word, prayer, gratitude, and delighting in His presence. Train like an athlete, fighting the good fight, knowing the goal is to win for God’s glory. Run intentionally, without reservation!

Passage to Read: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Quote: “Run so that you may win!!!” – From the sermon (echoing 1 Corinthians 9)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does “running with endurance” look like in your daily life?
2. How can spiritual disciplines like prayer and Scripture meditation build your endurance?
3. In what areas do you need community support to run your race well?

Closing Prayer:

God, empower me to run my race with endurance and discipline. Help me embrace the path You’ve set, finding joy in Your presence. Surround me with others to encourage and strengthen me. Amen.

Day 5: Regard Jesus

Devotional:

Fix your eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. He endured the cross for joy, winning the race on our behalf. When fog, waves, or exhaustion hit—like Florence Chadwick’s swim—focus on Him, not distractions. He’s the starting line, finish line, and ultimate example. In weariness, remember His victory is ours; keep running to the shore that is Christ!

Passage to Read: Philippians 1:3-6

Quote: “If I could have just seen the shore, I could have made it.” – Florence Chadwick

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens when you take your eyes off Jesus during struggles?
2. How does knowing Jesus is both the founder and finisher of your faith give you hope?
3. In what ways can you practically “fix your eyes” on Christ this week?

Closing Prayer:

Jesus, You are the author and perfecter of my faith. When I'm weary, help me fix my gaze on You and Your cross. Remind me the victory is won—keep me running toward You, my eternal joy. Amen.