

Some suggestions and questions that you may find helpful

Are you sure you are in the race?

Are you running in the right direction?

Are you further along on the race than you were last week?

Do others know why you are running and Who you are following?

When life gets hard, and it will, there is only one direction to look; to the One who will be handing out your crown when you cross the finish line ☺

Suggestion from John Piper from Hebrews 12:1:

Pick a time in the very near future, a half or full day and get away by yourself. (My thought is that may be next to impossible for some of you but a couple hours you could do).

Get away with no phone, no computer, no people. Take a bible and notebook and plan your run with Jesus. On that paper note the entangling sins. Note the seemingly innocent weights and encumbrances that are not condemned explicitly in the bible, but which you know are holding you back in the race for faith and love and strength and holiness and courage and freedom. Note the subtle ways you make for these provisions (Romans 13:14); the computer, the hidden alcohol or food, the television, movies, books, magazines etc. In addition note the people that weaken you. Next, note the times that are wasted, thrown away.

When you have made all these notations, pray your way through to resolve and make a plan of dismantling these encumbrances and resisting these sins, and breaking old, old habits. And don't rise up against the Bible at this point and say, "I can't change". It is an assault on God if you read Hebrews 12:1 and go away saying it can't happen, these hindrances can't be removed and these sins can't be laid aside. God has not spoken this command for nothing. The entire book of Hebrews is written to undergird these practical commands. So go back and read the book and ask God to take all the glorious truth that is here (about the superiority of Christ and the power of His death and resurrection, and the effectiveness of His intercession for you) and make this truth explosive with life-changing power.

Carry some of the story to your small group and get them to pray for you. Find someone you trust and ask them to check in with you and support you. That is what Hebrews 3:12-13 says we should do. (I might add Hebrews 10:24-25). Now that you finished reading this don't drift away from this moment. Before this day is over choose a time that you will get away to plan your spring run with Jesus.

**Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
Going for the Gold!**
Hebrews 12:1-2
Lesson 2 - Faithful Living
Marie Kolstad

Introduction

1. The Inspiration to Win

2. The Preparation Necessary to Win

3. The Determination to Win

4. Our Motivation to Win

O soul are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
Over us sin no more hath dominion
For more than conquerors we are!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.