

How to Persist in Your Faith Journey

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3 (New International Version)

Contained in these verses is a **four part plan** that will help believers persist in their spiritual journey.

- **Part #1: LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AGGRESSIVELY AND PERSISTENTLY.**

. . . and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Two Observations

- Pursue the faith journey aggressively.

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called . . . 1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)

- Persist in the faith journey.

Perseverance = *hupomone* = steadfastness, constancy, persistence

Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24b (NIV)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

- **Part #2: TAKE ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THOSE WHO MODEL FAITH.**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses . . .

- **Part #3: LET GO OF WHATEVER HINDERS YOUR FAITH JOURNEY.**

. . . let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles . . .
Hebrews 12:1b (NIV)

Two Commands

- Throw off everything that hinders . . .

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight . . . Hebrews 12:1a (New King James Version)

"Weight" = *ogkos* = anything that burdens or encumbers

Anything that would prevent a believer from aggressively running the faith race is a "weight."

- Throw off . . . the sin that so easily entangles . . .

- **Part #4: KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON JESUS.**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pray without ceasing . . . 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (English Standard Version)

You fix your eyes on Jesus by keeping in contact with Him through prayer, and by maintaining a moment by moment awareness of His presence.

When you focus on Jesus, two things happen:

- You're encouraged by His example.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:3 (NIV)

- You learn to tune in to His will.