

Hebrews 12:1-4; "Running with Endurance" May 25, 2025

I. Welcome & Review

A. Good morning. "Ohayougozaimasu". Welcome to Calvary Chapel Iwakuni. It's great to be here with you all as we gather together to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

1. *Welcome any new faces and those streaming online.* Deterrence

B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School classrooms.

1. *(2nd Service; Remember to dismiss the Bible English class.)*

C. For the rest of us we will continue our way through our study of the book of Hebrews.

1. Last week we finished off chapter 11 and the Hebrews Hall of Faith. And while we probably could have stayed in that chapter for a few more weeks considering all the details of the men and women listed and the things they went through, as the author himself admitted, "time would fail us" to tell of all they accomplished in and through their lives of faith.

2. And so, we move forward in our study of the book of Hebrew and make our way to the beginning of chapter 12.

3. Remember that the entire reason for writing Hebrews chapter 11 was so that the author could give examples of men and women from the audience's own past who lived lives of faith.

a. The author was telling them about their need to endure, their need to persevere, to continue following after the Lord despite some of the persecution and difficulties they were experiencing.

b. He wrote how the just shall live by faith and the audience were people who had been justified by faith, and the exhortation is that they must continue to live by faith.

4. Our faith in Jesus isn't based solely upon a one-time decision.

a. But rather, it involves a daily decision to die to ourselves and to live for Christ. To trust in His plans and His purposes, and to continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

5. As we make our way into chapter 12, the author is going to challenge them to run their race with endurance.

a. Using a common theme of sports and competition, the author looks to motivate them to continue to press on towards the goal, to finish their race well, and to be as best prepared for the race as possible.

6. Our text this morning is going to be Hebrews chapter 12 verses 1-4, and the title of our study is going to be "**Running with Endurance**".

7. If you have your Bible with you this morning and you haven't done so already, go ahead and make your way to Hebrews chapter 12.

a. If you are here this morning without a Bible, please feel free to borrow one of the Bibles located under some of the chairs near you.

8. Once you are there in Hebrews 12, if you are willing, I'd like to invite you to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Holy Word.

a. I'll be reading from the NKJV of the Bible, if you are reading from a different translation that is fine, just do your best to follow along in your Bible, as I read from mine.

9. The author of Hebrews continues his letter with the following in verse 1 of chapter 12. (*R & P; remember to pray for Memorial Day those who have given their lives in protection of our freedoms*)

II. Intro & Outline

A. Do we have any endurance athletes here this morning? Any marathon runners? Or ultramarathon runners?

1. In case you couldn't tell, I am not a marathon runner. I really don't like running all that much. I know some of you talk very highly about running and the runner's high, but I'm not buying it.

2. I like cycling, and I've done a few longer rides before, but nothing that would compare to the likes of what some of you guys put yourselves through.

a. I remember one guy that used to come here to Calvary named Jake Dubois. He and his wife Madison were a huge blessing during their season here in Iwakuni.

b. I rode a few times with him, and he was a beast on the bike. But he was hardcore at pretty much everything he did when it came to physical fitness.

c. I saw on Facebook and Strava that he competed in something called the Grindstone 100 this last September. It's a race through the mountains of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. The length of the race ended up being 112 miles for him with an elevation gain of over 21,000 ft. He completed it in just under 36 hours.

d. Now, the Grindstone 100 isn't just some race you wake up one day and try to compete in. It is something that takes a lot of preparation, a lot of training, a lot of discipline.

e. That goes for any sort of endurance race. You don't just wake up and say, I'm going to go run a marathon today without having put in some training, some discipline, and developing some sort of plan.

B. In our text this morning, the author of Hebrews borrows some imagery that would be very familiar with his audience and the world at this time.

1. Even if they themselves were not athletes, Many were familiar with the events and competitions associated with the Olympic games.

2. One of the more popular events was the foot race which is still part of the Olympic games to this day. Today there are various foot races ranging from the 100-meter sprint to the 42.2 kilometer marathon (26.2 miles for those who aren't up on the metric system)

3. In order to compete in these races, the athletes train for years and years. They discipline their bodies and push their bodies beyond their own abilities, reaching to newer and greater heights so that they may win the prize.
- C. In our text today, the author encouraged his audience to run the race set before them with endurance.
1. The Christian life is not a sprint; it's not the 100-meter dash. It's more like a marathon, or an ultramarathon. It is a race that begins the moment you say "yes" to Jesus, and it continues until the day you here Him say, "well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord".
 2. And in this endurance race of faith, the author points out a few things that are vitally important to our successful completion of the race.
 3. In our text we're going to note four different things that are involved in running with endurance, running the race of faith successfully.
 4. And the very first thing the author highlights as being part of running the race with endurance has to do with what he just wrote about in Hebrews chapter 11 and the Hall of Faith. Take a look at the beginning of vs. 1.
- III. Hebrews 12:1a; Involves Learning
- A. Verse 1 starts off with the word "Therefore" and "therefore" is always used as a transition word to speak of something that comes about as a result of something just spoken.
1. And the thing just spoken about was the Hall of Faith in Hebrews chapter 11; all those people who lived their lives by faith.
- B. The author writes "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witness", what cloud of witness? Those men and women from chapter 11 who lived by faith and ran before us.
- C. We are surrounded by men and women of faith who have gone before us, who have run the race and finished well, and their stories and the lessons they learned can help us in our own race of endurance.
1. Struggling with work relations. Do people in work just seem to have it in for you, do they look to trap you or set you up for failure. Are they trying to entice you to sin. Look at the life of Daniel and how he dealt with similar situations where people tried to entrap him because of his faith in God.
 2. Are you struggling with infertility issues and patiently waiting upon God's timing. Read about Hannah and Sarah, and Elizabeth who all struggled with infertility.
 3. Struggling with the pain and loss of a child. David knows that pain and brings comfort to those who have gone through the same.
 4. Maybe you're struggling in your marriage, issues surrounding trust and unfaithfulness. The prophet Hosea knows all about that and can teach you about how to forgive and rebuild your lives.
5. Maybe you are dealing with issues of lust and sexual temptation. Turn to the life of Joseph and read about how he handled the same sort of issues in his life.
 6. Maybe you are doing well, but you feel the need to speak up about your faith more. Look to the life of Esther and how she was willing to forego the comfortable life to identify with the people of God.
 7. Or maybe life isn't so good. Maybe you feel like you've been punched in the gut over and over and you feel like the entire world is against you. Read about the life of Job and what he went through and the lessons he learned through similar situations.
 8. Over and over throughout the pages of the Scriptures are lessons for us to learn from the people that have gone before us.
- D. Paul the apostle writes in the book of Romans, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (**Rom. 15:4**)
1. These heroes of the faith from chapter 11, their stories were written for our learning. That we may look to them and learn from the lessons they went through.
 2. The OT Scriptures are filled with incredible lessons on faith. Men and women who endured through a great many obstacles and challenges but finished their faith well.
 - a. You know, here at Calvary we teach verse by verse through the New Testament on Sunday mornings, but we teach verse by verse through the Old Testament on Wednesday nights.
 - i. And those who come on Wednesday nights can attest to how God speaks so powerfully through the Old Testament. So many lessons to learn, so many pictures and shadows of things to come that are amazing to consider.
 - b. I would encourage you all to be students of not just the New Testament, but the Old as well. Understanding that the things written before hand, well, they were written for our own learning, as Paul writes in Romans.
 - c. That we, you and I, through patience (that word "patience" is the same word in the Greek that is translated as endurance in our text this morning; the word is hupomone) that we through patience, through endurance; and through comfort (that word can be translated as encouragement) of the Scriptures, might have hope.
 - d. The Scriptures were written that we may learn from them to have patience, to have endurance and to be comforted, to be encouraged in the hope of our faith.
 - e. Dive into the word of God and let it encourage you. Let it bring you comfort and hope. Let it develop patience in you and grow you in endurance as we look to the Lord and His plans for us.

3. These real life stories we read of in throughout the Scriptures were written for us to learn from.
- E. And as we consider the charge to run with endurance the first thing we note here in our text is that running with endurance **involves learning from those who have gone before us.**
1. Now for the audience of the book of Hebrews, that was pointing to the men and women of the OT.
 2. But for us, it speaks not only of them, but also of the NT heroes we read of throughout the pages of the New Testament.
 3. And not only that, it speaks about the many brothers and sisters in the faith who since the first century have run their race for the Lord effectively. Missionaries throughout history and giants of the faith.
 4. But it also includes people you and I know even today. How many of us can think of a brother or sister who is just a few laps ahead of us in the race that we can learn from, that we can glean from. People who have experienced things that we're in the midst of and can help point us in the right direction.
 5. God has even brought you through certain seasons, certain circumstances, certain lessons that you may share those lessons with your younger brothers and sisters who are just beginning to hit their stride in their own race and you can give them tips and lessons so that they will continue to endure, pressing forward toward the upward call of God upon their own life.
- F. So, as we prepare for this race of faith, we must learn the lessons of faith from those who have gone before us. But there is more, take a look at our opening verse once again; verse 1.
- IV. Hebrews 12:1b; Involves Loosening
- A. Endurance athletes understand the need to rid themselves of any extra weight that may slow them down or hinder them in their race.
1. Back in the ancient days of Greece when the Olympics first started most of the athletes would run naked or as close to naked as possible because they didn't want anything to slow them down.
 2. Nowadays, athletes wear clothes, which I'm sure we're all grateful for. But they wear clothing that is specifically suited for whatever their specialty is.
 - a. Those track runners are in skintight suits that form to their bodies and wear special track shoes with spikes that have a very thin midsole to keep weight down.
 - b. Bur marathon runners wear shoes with a much thicker midsole to help with absorbing all the pounding that comes with a 26+ plus mile race. And they wear those short, short, shorts that have that slit up the side and are very breathable and super light.
 - c. I've seen some of you Marines sporting those silkies out on runs before, you know what I'm talking about.
 - d. Some athletes will even shave their limbs because it makes them more aerodynamic, creating less resistance as they race across the tracks. They cut any, and all, extra weight in order to be as light as possible, so that they can run as fast as possible.
- B. The same principles apply to us and our own race of faith.
1. If we want to run the race with endurance and successfully complete our race, we need to make sure that we are as light as possible.
 2. That we aren't carrying around with us any extra weight that could slow us down or ensnare us from running the race set before us.
 3. Now when the author speaks of weights and sin we need to understand what the author is talking about.
 4. We know what sin is, right. We know that entertaining sin and messing around with sin is a recipe for disaster.
 - a. Sin is any offense in relation to God. It is missing out on what is best for us in our lives. Sin is doing wrong or evil; it is missing the mark.
 - b. You guys know what sin is, or at least you should know what sin is since the Bible clearly lays out all sorts of things that are identified as sin; sins that we are all subject to.
 - i. Paul lists a few for us in Galatians when he writes, "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **(Gal. 5:19-21)**
 - c. The author of Hebrews writes how sin can so easily ensnare us.
 - i. This phrase carries the idea of sin easily surrounding us; easily getting in our way, and keeping us from moving forward in the race God has called us to.
 - ii. Sin easily distracts us, it surrounds us, and wants to cling to us. It not only weighs us down, but it wants to take control of our lives and keep us from moving in the direction God is calling us to.
 - d. We need to get rid of it. We need to free ourselves from sin. We can't allow it to have any room in our life to get in our way.
 - i. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so that we can be released from our sin. He's broken the chains, but some people out there are trying to fix the chain back on.
 - ii. We must confess our sin, repent from our sin, and completely renounce it from our lives.
 - Proverbs 28:13 declares, "He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." **(Pr. 28:13)**

- iii. We must forsake sin. Isaiah the prophet declared, "Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7)
 - iv. John writes in his first epistle, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:8-9)
 - e. We can't allow sin to entangle us, to ensnare us, or to keep us from moving forward in the race God has called us to.
5. But there is another more subtle thing the author warns us about here in verse 1 as well. It isn't just sin that we have to be wary of, we also must be mindful of any extra weights we may be clinging to.
- a. What is a weight? Well, a weight isn't necessarily a bad thing in and of itself. It isn't sin per se. But it can have a similar effect as sin because it slows you down and becomes an obstacle that gets in the way of pursuing after the Lord.
 - b. Some people are trying to run the race while carrying around all sorts of weights strapped to themselves. You're only making it harder on yourself. You need to get rid of those things. You need to lay it aside because it isn't helping you get to where you need to be.
 - c. Just like sin, these weights can so easily ensnare us as well. They distract us. Instead of making time to read our bible, or to pray, or to serve, we fill our lives with a bunch of other activities that in and of themselves aren't necessarily bad, but they are when they are getting in the way of something better.
 - d. You see the truth of the matter is that most endurance athletes aren't making choices between what is good for them and what is bad for them.
 - i. Most well-trained athletes aren't struggling with decisions between good and evil. They're making decision between what is good and what is best.
 - ii. When thinking about fueling their bodies prior to a big race, they aren't choosing between a bunch of junk food and alcohol the night before or a well-balanced meal with plenty of carbs and protein with a good amount of water to insure proper hydration.
 - iii. No, their choices are much more detailed. They're making sure their body is fueled not just with some good things, but the very best possible of things, things that will prepare them for success.
 - e. In our lives of faith, we need to learn to make choices not just between good and evil, but between what is good and what is best.
 - f. We have to understand that a good thing isn't a good thing if it stands in the way of something better.
 - g. I don't know what your specific weights may be, but I imagine if you're listening to me this morning, that there are probably a few things God is bringing to your heart at this moment.
 - h. Whatever those things are, you need to be willing to lay those things aside. That you may run with endurance.
6. That's the second point we want to make ourselves this morning. Running with endurance not only involves learning, but it also **involves loosening ourselves from weights and sins** that only slow us down and keep us from running the race effectively.
- a. If we want to be able to run with endurance, to make the long haul, we're going to have to lay aside the things that keep us from fully following after the Lord. Lay them aside. If their sins, confess them, repent from them, and forsake them completely. Leave them behind in the dust as you push forward in the race.
- C. Continuing in verse 1 we see one more thing involved in running with endurance. Finish off the rest of verse 1 with me.
- V. Hebrews 12:1c; Involves Lasting
- A. The word "endurance" in our text is the word "hupomone" in the Greek. This word speaks to the ability of bearing up under something, of having patience and endurance in the midst of circumstances.
1. There is a different Greek word that is used to speak of enduring with people; of being long-suffering with them. This specific word denotes bearing up and enduring things and circumstances.
- B. The author writes we are to run with endurance, meaning we are to run bearing with all the various circumstances and challenges that come our way.
- C. And note with me, the author writes we are to run with endurance the race that is set before us.
1. Each of us has a race to run. We're all running in the race, but we each have our own lane to run in so to say. Our course may not look like everyone else's course, it may be a little bit longer, it may be a little more challenging, it may have more obstacles than others, or it may be a relatively straight forward race.
 - a. Some are running the 400, while others are running the 1600. Some are running and they've got hurdles set up every 35 meters or so and some don't have any. Some may be running in the **(picture)** steeplechase event. You guys know what that one is? It's that event with the barriers and water pits runners jump over and through.
 - b. The course laid out before each of us is unique. None of us are running the exact same race. Sure there are similarities and perhaps seasons that mirror others, but each of our courses are unique. We have to focus upon running our race and not allow ourselves to get distracted by other people and their race.

2. God has laid out a track uniquely for you. He's prepared it for you, knowing your own strengths, your own weaknesses, knowing what you can bear and what you will need help with along the way.
3. We need to run with endurance the race set before us, with all of its unique challenges and circumstances.

D. Running with endurance involves **lasting through all our challenges and circumstances** to the glory of God.

1. No matter what circumstances and challenges are on our course, we can be confident that God will see us through each of them.
2. Don't get distracted by other people's lane and the circumstances they may be in.
 - a. We have a tendency to do that. To look at other people's race and wonder why they didn't get the same obstacles and challenges we got in our race.
 - b. Some look like they're in the racewalking event, while we're stuck with unending hurdles. When we start looking at other people's lane it inevitably will slow us down in our own lanes.
 - c. We need to focus upon what God has for each of us. There may be other who have gone through similar sections of our race before and we can learn from them. But we can't get distracted too much by other people's race.
 - d. We need to run the race set before us. Get your eyes off of other people's lanes, other people's circumstances and focus upon what God has for you.

E. The final thing involved in running with endurance is found in verses 2-4. Read them with me and we'll develop this fourth and final part of our study.

VI. Hebrews 12:2-4; Involves Looking

A. This is by far the most important thing involved in running with endurance. We are to **look unto Jesus**.

1. Looking unto Jesus is the most important thing in our race. We don't look to others, though we can learn from them, we don't look at our weights and sins, we lay those things aside. We don't even focus on our own lane, the obstacles and challenges we face. We focus upon Jesus. We are looking unto Him and letting Him lead the way.
2. This word "looking" is a very unique word in the Greek. In Greek there are a number of ways to say look and this one used here is only used twice in all the NT.
 - a. The regular word for look, the Greek word "blepo" is used some 135 times in the Bible. But this word for look, the word "aphorao" [ah-four-ow] is only used here in Hebrews and one other time in Philippians chapter 2.

3. This word translated "looking" in the English actually means to "look away steadfastly or intently toward a distant object". It means to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them solely on something else.
4. It carries the idea of being so fixed upon something that you can not be distracted from any other thing. Your eyes are glued to this one thing.
5. And here the author says that our eyes are to be fixed upon Jesus. We don't look at the distractions, we don't look at others, we don't look at circumstances, we don't look at weights and sins. We look solely to Jesus, who is not only with us during the race, but also awaiting us at the finish line.

B. In verses 2-4 the author gives us three reasons why we are to fix our eyes upon Jesus. The first of which is seen right at the beginning of verse 2.

C. Vs. 2a; Because He is the author and finisher of our faith

1. Jesus is the **author and finisher of our faith**.
 - a. The word "author" in the Greek is "archegos" and it speaks of an initiator, originator, of founder of something. In this context, it refers to Jesus as the initiator of our faith, He is the originator of faith.
 - b. When it speaks of faith, it not only refers to the beginning of our individual lives of faith in Jesus, but the faith as a whole.
 - c. Christianity is based upon Jesus Christ. The Bible is really the record of God's redemption plan for humanity that started way back in the beginning, before the world was even formed.
 - d. The Bible speaks about how Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. **(Rev. 13:8b)**
 - e. And throughout the Bible the message of faith is sewn throughout; from Genesis to Revelation, it is all pointing to and based upon Jesus Christ, God's Son, and the Savior of the world.
 - f. Our faith is based solely upon, and has its foundation in and through, Jesus Christ. There is no Christian faith without Jesus Christ.
 - g. And our individual life of faith began when we surrendered our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. When we confessed our sins and put our faith in the completed work of Jesus Christ upon the cross.
 - h. God sent the Holy Spirit to lead us to Jesus, that we may realize our need for Jesus and the forgiveness of sins that comes only through faith in Jesus. So Jesus is the author of our faith and the faith.
2. But He is also the finisher of our faith. He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty according to Revelation 1:8. **(Rev. 1:8)**
 - a. The word "finisher" in the Greek speaks of a completer or perfecter. Jesus is the one who brings our faith to completion without any defect or blemish. He perfects our faith. The finisher is one who reaches the end goal so as to win the prize. Jesus not only began

faith, but He perfected it, He completed it. Our faith has its beginning and end in and through Jesus Christ.

- b. This is the only time in all of the Scripture that this word is used. And it is a powerful description of Jesus and His role in our faith. Jesus is the creator, sustainer and consummator of faith in the hearts of every single person who ever lived their lives by faith in God.
 - c. Jesus will see to it that the work He began in us is seen through till the end. That is the promise that Paul writes of in Philippians 1:6 when he writes how we can be “confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in us will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 1:6)
3. So we must look to Jesus because He is the author and finisher of our faith. But that isn’t the only reason we need to look to him. The second reason has to do with what the author writes about in the rest of verse 2 and verse 3. (read)
- D. Vs. 2b-3; Because He is the ultimate example of endurance
1. We look to Jesus because **He is the ultimate example of endurance**. The author is telling his audience that they have need of endurance, that they must run their race with endurance. Well, there is no better example to look to of what that looks like than the example of Jesus Christ and how He endured through life and ran His race.
 2. We have a great cloud of witnesses to learn from, as we look back through the pages of the OT Scriptures, but none compares to the example of Jesus Christ.
 - a. That is why we don’t look to and focus on others. We can learn from others, but we don’t look to others, because we focus our attention upon the perfect example of the life of Jesus Christ.
 - b. For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame of the cross, yet pressing through all the way to the end.
 - c. He was ridiculed by those He came to save, whipped, beaten, spit upon, made a mockery of, and crucified for sins He never committed.
 - d. But He endured it all, all the hostility, all the pain, all the wrath of God being poured out upon Him. He did it for the joy that was set before Him. And what was that joy?
 - e. I believe it was two fold. I believe it was the joy of completing the work the Father had sent Him to do, the joy of being reunited with the Lord in heaven when it was all said and done.
 - f. But I think it also involved you and me. We were part of the joy that was set before Him. The joy of knowing that once He finished His race, that a way would be made for people like you and me to be reconciled to the Father, and that we too would be welcomed before the throne of God in heaven.
 - g. Verse three exhorts us to “consider Him”. The word “consider” carries the idea of considering accurately and distinctly or again and

again. We are to continually look to Jesus and His example that we may not become weary and discouraged in our souls.

- h. As we look to Jesus and realize all that He went through for us, the joy that was set before Him, it ought to have an empowering effect upon us. It ought to encourage us to continue on, understanding what awaits us at the finish line. It will all be worth it in the end.
3. Which brings me to the third and final reason we must look to Jesus while running our race with endurance, its found in verse 4. (read)
- E. Vs. 4; Because we have not finished our race
1. We must look to Jesus because **our race is not yet finished**. We have not yet resisted to bloodshed in our race against sin.
 2. In this context bloodshed refers to the loss of life. If the breath of life still flows through us, then our race is not yet done, and we need to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus.
 3. Jesus will be faithful to complete the work He began in us. And if you are here this morning and you’re still breathing, which I hope is all of us. It means that God still has a few more laps for you to run, a few more obstacles to overcome. How much longer will you have to run? I don’t know. But be comforted with the fact that God does know.
 4. God knows your beginning and end. He’s laid out your course before you. He was with you at the very beginning, He’s been with you every step of the way, and He’ll be there at the end to see you across the finish line. As you keep your eyes focused upon Him, He will see you through all the way to the end.

VII. Conclusion

- A. What a great encouragement this must have been to the first century readers of this letter. They were struggling in their faith. They were getting tired, tired of the persecution, tired of the constant struggle, some were contemplating throwing in the towel and calling it quits.
- B. But the author exhorts them. He encourages them to push through the challenges, the difficulties, the opposition. To not give up, to run with endurance.
 1. And as they run their race with endurance, they can consider the many who have gone before them and learn from their lives.
 2. They can examine their own lives and look to see if they’ve allowed certain weights and sins to bog them down, and if so, lay those things aside, get rid of them, that they may run all the more effectively.
 3. They can push through the challenges, the obstacles, and the circumstances that God has allowed and placed in their own individual races. Knowing that God has allowed those things to help prepare them for what is next and that none of those circumstances can keep the Lord from finishing the work He began in them.
 4. They can look to Jesus, the author and finisher of their faith, the perfect example of endurance, and realize that despite all He went through, He

never gave up, He never threw in the towel, and He finished His race.
And by the grace of God they will do the same.

5. This encouragement and exhortation is just as important today as it was nearly 2,000 years ago when it was first penned. Hopefully these words from Hebrews 12 will encourage and comfort us as well in our own races.
6. We're all running in the race of faith, each with our own lane to run it, may we run with endurance, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and not allow ourselves to be distracted by anything else. He is with us, and He is awaiting us at the finish line in heaven.
7. Amen? Amen. Let's pray.