

Wings or Weights? 2021-05-23

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews to church getting old and start drift through life indifferent, dull, lazy. Theme

- enjoy benefits of union with Jesus without striving for holiness. James 2:14-18
 - Here commanded to “keep running ... with endurance”
 - Only through Jesus Christ can we run the marathon of faith with endurance.

Like an athlete who needs self-discipline motivated by goals of finish well and receive the reward.

- that involves laying aside sin and unnecessary baggage. Hebrews 12:1, James 1:14-15

Sin begins in the mind, so judge words/actions at thought level and cut sin off there.

- Like a computer...what is put in is what you get out.
 - Sin is easier to ID than “weights” or encumbrances.

Not intrinsically wrong/sin but keep from running the race as should. *LaX Marathon*

- Legitimate desires become idols we pursue and affections for Jesus are dulled.
 - Ryan touched on this 3 weeks ago.
- Not denying God, just ignoring/forgetting Him or use Him only for selfish ends.
 - Time for sleep/news/job but not for God/His people.

Examine self and ask Holy Spirit to reveal if wing (facilitates faith) or weight (hinder).

PRAY

- Introspection, if Holy Spirit-led, is humbling but good for us and does not lead into hopelessness, guilt, depression. Colossians 3:5, Romans 13:14, Matthew 5:29, Psalm 31:4
 - By grace throw off what hinders your display of /growth in Jesus Christ’s character.
 - Cross gave us freedom from sin’s penalty and release from sin’s control.

Destroy ways you make provision for your hindrances.

- Enemy uses fear of legalism or “liberty in Jesus Christ”.
 - pray for strength, seek accountability/help. *Runner Falls*
- Exercise self-control in all, embrace self-denial. 1 Corinthians 9:25 Galatians 5:22, Luke 9:23

look back for sake of pressing forward....Hebrews theme!

- Like imperfect, sinful, encumbered Old Testament saints, look to eternity to live God-centered rather than self-centered life.
 - God’s glory is primary desire in all we do in life.

Only way able to lay aside weights/sin that entangle to run marathon of faith with endurance is to look to Jesus for strength, example. Hebrews 12:1-2a, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 1:6

- He gives (founder), sustains, brings to completion our faith.
 - Jesus Christ is sufficient to save, sanctify, and perfect us.

Jesus is our perfect example of how live by faith in world.

- Jesus finished well by looking to the joy set before Him.
 - You/I, glorifying Father, kingly eternal reign.
- He is joy set before all who finishes the course. 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Galatians 6:14, Ephesians 4:1
 - He is the reward and great rewarder.
 - Eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven, free from all sin/weights.

If weary in race, examine self and ask Holy Spirit to reveal if something is a wing (facilitates our walk) or a weight (hinders running as should)...don't let good replace best!

- By God's grace, look to Jesus Christ, founder/perfector of your faith, lay aside weights, run race of faith by delighting in Jesus, looking ahead to joy set before you.