

# **So Many Witnesses**

**6-8-25**

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

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,

**The word, Therefore, is a huge word. Therefore, because of this great cloud of witnesses in Chapter 11, we see faith and understand faith. We now have the motivation to make decisions to live by faith. Thus, we throw off everything that hinders our faith. Things that hinder are not necessarily anything bad. Many things are not wrong in themselves, but they do interfere keeping us from putting forth our best effort. Thus, we should avoid them. However, there are some things that are bad, sins that cripple us. Sin is our active violation of God's truth. Also, for each of us, there is that particular sin which entangles us. Then just as Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife, we must flee that sin which can easily entangles us.**

**Throwing off these “self-imposed” obstacles, we now can run the race God has specifically laid out for us.** We persevere because we heard God and are acting on what HE told us. This begins with salvation but *continues* in our daily lives. **Only such an attitude of faith can sustain us during the adversities we will face throughout our life.** Our compass is Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

(Run the race) Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before HIM HE endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Jesus is the perfecter of our faith.** HE brings us to HIS intended goal. We must keep looking away from this world and look to Jesus. **Not only is Jesus the goal of our faith, HE also “demonstrates” perfect faith.**

John 5:30 (NIV)

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Jesus did it right! “For the joy set before HIM, Jesus endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Jesus had joy because HE saw beyond the cross. Jesus “scorned the shame” of the cross. Scorning the shame literally means to regard it lightly. Seeing the joy of our forgiveness, Jesus thought little of the pain and shame involved in the cross. HE regarded the cross lightly and didn’t avoid it. Plus, as we saw in Hebrews 11:6, with perfect faith comes the belief that God rewards. When Jesus completed HIS assignment, HE received HIS reward and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Brothers and sisters, we too should be looking to our reward. In Hebrews 11:10, “Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” Where Jesus is we will go. Therefore, we should have our eyes set upon the things above. The apostle Paul said Heaven is beyond our imagination. The apostle John also gives us a peek into Heaven.

## **Beholding the Majesty helps our faith!**

Revelation 21:22-23 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

<sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

## **Have faith, believe God who rewards us. Have a heavenly mindset. Jesus said:**

John 14:1-3 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in ME. <sup>2</sup>In My Father's house are many rooms; ... I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with ME that you also may be where I am.