

LIVING FOR JESUS

Part 3 of THE DEATH OF DEATH. Hebrews 12:1-4.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 24, 2022.

ENDURING FAITH

HEBREWS 12:1-4

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. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood..

THE FOCUS: RUN WITH ENDURANCE

1. Following Jesus is not easy
2. Following Jesus is not a one-time decision.
3. Following Jesus is not random.

With that in mind, here are FOUR STEPS TO ENDURING FAITH

STEP ONE: LOOK BACK

Hebrews 10:1a (ESV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...

A great crowd of witnesses:

Hebrews 11:36-38 (ESV) Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy ...

Book Table:

STEP TWO: LOOK IN

Hebrews 10:1b (ESV) ... let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely ...

Lay aside:

Weight:

Sin:

STEP THREE: LOOK UP

Hebrews 12:2-3 (ESV) 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. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Look to Jesus:

Founder:

Perfecter:

Consider Jesus:

The spiritual principle of cross then crown:

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

STEP FOUR: LOOK OUT

Hebrews 12:4 (ESV) In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

The struggle against sin:

Not yet resisted to the point of shedding their blood:

Following Jesus is costly:

"The entrance fee into the kingdom of heaven is nothing: the annual subscription is everything" (possibly Henry Drummond, Scottish evangelist, 1851-1897).

Revelation 3:21 (ESV) The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

CONCLUSION: STAND FIRM IN FAITH!

Visit the Book Table to look at biographies of faithful Christians.