

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**Hebrews 12****Hebrews 12**

As in all of the Apostle Paul's writings, specifically, as he wrote general letters such as Hebrews, he had a practical section or what I refer to as a "Therefore or So what" segment of the letter. God does not give us spiritual truth and knowledge to play with or sit on, but rather to live out in obedience to the truth revealed.

In the previous chapter, the writer laid the foundation of faith and gave many and varied illustrations about how that faith was acted upon, great deeds were accomplished, and the will of God was carried out through faith. In chapter twelve you have the linguistic flag that points us toward actions based upon the truth revealed. God has told us what pleases Him, how to please Him, and no they, and by extension all of us, should live in that same obedience as those who lived before us and walked with God.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion

who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

(Hebrews 12:1-4 **Emphasis mine**)

Those who have lived the life of faith as a witness and example to those of us who are presently walking out of the **faith life!** Jesus is our finish line. He is the ultimate example of who lived a life of faithful obedience. He never failed at any point. He did this not living a life of ease, but rather he suffered in so many ways and endured the excruciating suffering of the cross and the humiliation it brought upon him. He knew that **"weeping only endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning."** The suffering that Jesus endured was but a short while compared to the joy that would follow in bringing many sons to redemption and ultimate glory and honor.

Prayer and Action Steps

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for suffering and dying in my place. Thank you for being faithful to the Father's will and being obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Please enable me by your Spirit to walk in the path of obedience and bear any reproach or hardship for your sake.

Amen