



January 3, 2021
Pastor Matt Doan

Keep Running in 2021! Hebrews 12:1-2

Run with Endurance Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1(c) – *“let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us”*

- Endurance - “Perseverance or Patience”
- The Race - “athletic contest or fight”
- @Set before us - “placed”

Run with a Group Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1(a) – *“Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us...let us...”*

- Therefore - Based on what we read in Chapter 11 and the entire letter of Hebrews
- Great Cloud - a throng of faithful people before us
- Witnesses - martyrs of the Christian faith
- Let us...

Run as Light as Possible Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1(b) – *“let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle (weight) and the sin which so easily entangles us”*

- Rid - “lay aside”
- Every obstacle - “weight”
- Sin which so easily entangles us - “distacts”

Run With Eyes on Jesus Hebrews 12:2

Hebrews 12:2 – *“looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith”*

- Looking only at Jesus - Bible scholar Peter O’Brien notes that the prefix to this Greek verb translated “looking” actually carries the meaning of “looking away from all others toward one” .
- The originator (author, leader, founder) and perfecter (completer, finisher)
- We run in faith, Jesus sits in authority over sin and death

Communion: We will give thanks and remember Jesus’ “endurance on the cross” through participating in the Lord’s Supper together after the sermon.

(If you are joining us online, be sure to find some bread and juice to take communion at home. Whatever elements help you to remember the body and blood of Jesus and celebrate the good news found in Him).

DIGGING DEEPER Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Preparation If possible, find a quiet and comfortable place. Rid yourself of distractions such as your phone, television, school work, interruptions from others, etc. Open yourself to God and intend to learn from Him.

"Lord, here I am, I present myself to You. Open my heart to the truth of what is going on in my life."

2 Read the Text Read Hebrews 12:1-2 a few times until you have a clear understanding of the passage.

3 Contemplate + Journal

Spend time thinking about and journaling your thoughts to the following questions. If you meet with a LifeGroup, you can also share your responses with them and have a great discussion.

- Hebrews 12:1 tells us that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" who has kept the faith even in extreme persecution. Ask the Lord, "Lord, how has the faith of others encouraged me in your faith journey?"
- Hebrews 12:1 goes on to challenge us to throw off the weight of sin that so easily distracts us. Open your heart to God and ask him to help you examine your life from 2020..."Lord, how did I spend my days and time? What did I look at? Where were my eyes focused & where was my gaze fixed? Lord, what weight (sin) needs to be thrown off in my life in this near year? How do I do this with you, Lord?"
- Hebrews 12:2 tells us to look to Jesus. Corey Trevathan, a pastor in Texas writes, "Perhaps the one resolution we could set this year is to take time daily to fix our eyes on Jesus. Because if it's true that we begin to look like the person we spend the most time with, the person we share common emotion with, the person we look at most often, then what if that person was Jesus? What would happen if we fixed our eyes & set our gaze on Jesus of Nazareth this year?" Open up to the Lord about this.
- Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God, as the completer of our faith. He has endured the cross and put sin and death under his power. Ask the Lord, "what does this mean for my life? What does this mean for me as I enter an unknown year?"

4 Praise + Worship Worship is an act or mindset shift that realigns us to the reality of who God is.

Find this song on Spotify, YouTube, AppleMusic, etc. and the lyrics if you would like to read or sing along. Make this song your prayer and declaration of praise and worship as you hear truths being sung over you. Allow the Lord to minister to your heart in this time. **Song Recommendation:** ["Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" by Hillsong Worship](#)

5 Closing Prayer Spend some time in prayer. Whether it is simply sitting in God's loving presence, expressing thankfulness and gratitude, and/or offering up supplication, pray what is on your heart.

6 Blessing *May "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints."* **Ephesians 1:18**

Your Response Today: Do you want to take a next step in your faith, ask for prayer, or learn more about following Jesus? Take a moment to fill out our online connection card by texting **"Card"** to **970-00**

Discover More: Learn about ways you can connect to life at Calvary by subscribing to weekly pastoral updates, growing in community through a LifeGroup, finding resources to give or receive care and help through this season, and discovering ways you can give to help make a difference locally and globally at CalvaryLife.org



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