

Running the Race of Faith

Hey Storehouse Fam!

Trust we've had a great start to the week.

In the arena of spiritual life, we don't run alone. **Hebrews 12:1-2** reminds us that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" - men and women who have gone before us, whose lives now testify to God's faithfulness and offer patterns of faith for us to follow.

They are not simply historical figures; they are portrayed as spectators in a generational race. Each "generation" receives a baton, a shared responsibility that is at once deeply personal and yet bound up with a people God has sustained across centuries. To run our leg of this race well, we need to embrace a three-part exhortation.

Laying Aside the Weight

The athletic metaphor is intentional. A marathon runner does not line up wearing a heavy coat; they strip down to what will help them finish.

Likewise, we are called to lay aside every weight. As Paul says in **1 Corinthians 10:23**, "All things are lawful," but "not all things are helpful." Many of the most exhausting burdens in our lives are not outright sins. They may be neutral habits, time-consuming distractions, or even good gifts that are no longer serving our spiritual growth.

So we ask more than, Is this allowed? We ask, Does this help me run? If a practice, relationship, or pattern consistently drains your affection for Christ or dulls your desire to obey Him, it has become a weight. And weights, however familiar or comfortable, must be set down if we are to endure.

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Facing the Personal Nature of Sin

Hebrews warns of “the sin that so easily ensnares us.” The wording suggests something close-fitting and particular—sin that seems almost tailored to our specific vulnerabilities.

Sin is subtle and deceitful. It seldom approaches with open hostility. Like the serpent in the garden, it works through half-truths, delayed consequences, and gradual entanglement. That is why Hebrews urges believers to exhort one another daily (**Hebrews 3:13**): we need others who will help us see what we have grown used to.

Each of us has patterns of temptation that feel “natural” because we have lived with them for so long. In isolation, those patterns harden into chains. In an honest, grace-filled community, they can be named, resisted, and replaced with new habits of obedience.

Running with Patient Endurance

The race set before us is not self-chosen, and it is not a sprint for personal acclaim. It is a long-distance calling that requires *hupomonē*: patient, steadfast endurance.

This kind of patience assumes that the road will be long and, at times, painfully difficult. Near the end of his life, Paul could say, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (**2 Timothy 4:7**). Notice the emphasis on finishing well, not merely starting with enthusiasm.

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Jesus prepared His disciples for a world filled with “many trials and sorrows” ([John 16:33](#)), yet He coupled that warning with the assurance that He has overcome the world. Endurance, then, is not stoic self-reliance. It is a sustained, grace-fueled faithfulness in the same direction, day after day, year after year.

The Secret to the Finish Line: Fixed Vision

How do we consistently lay aside weights, resist bespoke snares, and keep running over the long haul? Hebrews offers one clear imperative: fix your eyes on Jesus.

Our gaze is constantly being pulled elsewhere. We are tempted to obsess over our failures, compare ourselves to other runners, or be swallowed up by the “boisterous winds” of our circumstances. Peter’s encounter with Jesus on the water illustrates this tension:

“So He said, ‘Come.’ And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, ‘Lord, save me!’” ([Matthew 14:29–30](#)).

Peter walked so long as his attention was fixed on Christ. The moment his focus shifted from the Saviour to the storm, he began to sink. The same dynamic operates in our discipleship. Our capacity to endure does not arise from staring harder at ourselves but from looking steadily at the One who ran before us and now runs with us.

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Jesus endured the cross “for the joy that was set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2), the joy of glorifying the Father and redeeming a people for Himself. The prize toward which we run is not uncertain or fragile; it has been secured by His finished work.

He is the Author who initiates our faith and the Finisher who promises to bring it to completion. Our task, by grace, is to keep taking the next faithful step with our eyes fixed, not on the storm or our performance, but on Christ Himself.

With love,
The Storehouse