



CMU FCA MONTHLY DEVOTIONAL

READY

“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 of who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”

Hebrews 12:1-2

SET

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish converts to reinforce their current faith in Christ and encourage them not to revert to their former religion. This passage from Hebrews 12:1-2 reminds us to stay motivated, stay focused, and stay conditioned to God’s path for us as we run the race of life. We are surrounded by many witnesses, and we are called to be aware of how they see us as we run past them or with them in this race. Our motivation is seeing what is ahead of us and seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and understanding our purpose. Without the vision and motivation of our race, there is no point in running. Our focus is keeping our eyes on the prize. Knowing that we are living our life to love others as God first loved us, creating disciples, and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, we can keep our eyes on Jesus. And finally, we are to stay conditioned through the entirety of the race. This comes with preparation and lots of endurance as our witnesses observe our words, thoughts, and actions till we cross the finish line.

Only Jesus reflected the perfect faith, but we can try every day to be closer knowing that being human we will fall short. However, we can never stop persevering to “win” the race of faith. The highs and lows of our relationship with Jesus vary during our race of life, and cannot be overcome without enduring and trusting that he gives us the strength to keep running. Jesus has been in our shoes and that gives us even more of a reason to forcefully cut loose from sin and focus on Christ every step of the way knowing that he emerged victorious.

GO

1. What kind of exercises can we do to increase the endurance of our faith? Think of this as a steady paced marathon.
2. Who is one person in your life you can pray for or have a conversation with about the obstacles in front of you while running your race?



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