

NOTES

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are **surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses**, let us **throw off everything that hinders and the sin** that so easily entangles. And let us **run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Definition of: Perseverance/Endurance - to bear up under the weight that is heavy. The power to withstand great pain or hardship. The ability or strength to continue despite fatigue, stress or adverse conditions.

In this text Paul was writing to people going through very similar things that we experience today.

- It's not easy to live **morally pure**
- It's not easy to tell the **truth**
- It's not easy to stay true to the **Bible**

Throw off -

I. Everything that hinders.

- What hinders you from spiritual growth?

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

James 1:19-22

- Good things can hold us back from **better things**
- Someone that has helped you grow this far - may not be the person to take you to the next level.

**II. Lay down the sin -
Temptation is not sin**

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”

1 Cor. 10:13

“Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire (lust) and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” **James 1:14-15**

Sin is not:

- a bad decision
- a poor choice
- a mistake

Sin defined: Sin is a violation of a known law of God.

“The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” **Gal. 5:19-21**

“...They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.” **Romans 1:28-32**

Jesus sets us free from sin. Not bad decisions, poor choices or today’s mistakes.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” **1 John 1:9**

III. Run with endurance.

“Let perseverance finish its work in you so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” **James 1:4**

It’s not how much you do for Jesus - it’s how much like Jesus will you become.

We want to bypass the sanctification process.

IV. Fixing your eyes on Jesus.

Where are you getting your council? Scripture is your council. Fix your eyes on scripture.

The devil wants to take you out of the race. **ENDURE.**

Gal. 6:9 “We shall reap if we do not grow weary.”

Phil. 4:13 “We can do hard things.”

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