

“THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH”
(Heb. 12:1-3)

- I. Our SITUATION (Heb. 12:1*a, c*)
 - A. We are PARTICIPATING in a CONTEST
 - 1. ASSIGNED to us by GOD
 - 2. Requires ENDURANCE to COMPLETE
 - B. We “run” as if SURROUNDED by WITNESSES
 - 1. Characterized as a “GREAT CLOUD”
 - 2. Referring to the HEROES of FAITH (11:3-28)
 - 3. Possibly those who bear witness to OUR PERFORMANCE
 - 4. Ones to whose faith GOD had borne WITNESSES (11:39)
- II. Our PREPARATION (Heb. 12:1*b*)
 - A. We must “lay aside EVERY ENCUMBRANCE”
 - 1. ANYTHING that would HINDER us
 - 2. ANYTHING that would SLOW us
 - B. We must “lay aside” ALL SIN
 - 1. INTERFERES with our PROGRESS
 - 2. ENTANGLES us EASILY

III. Our CONCENTRATION (Heb. 12:2*a*)

A. We must MAINTAIN our FOCUS

1. SEEING only ONE THING
2. IGNORING all DISTRACTIONS

B. Our GOAL is always and only JESUS

1. The ORIGIN and SOURCE of faith
2. The GUARANTOR of faith's CONSUMMATION

IV. Our MOTIVATION (Heb. 12:2*b-3*)

A. Jesus ENDURED the CROSS

1. Considered its SHAME of no CONSEQUENCE
2. Considered the resulting JOY of GREATER VALUE

B. Jesus has TAKEN His SEAT with the THRONE of GOD

1. AFFIRMING the Father's APPROVAL
2. RETURNING to eternal GLORY

C. We must CONTEMPLATE the incalculable HOSTILITY He endured from SINNERS

1. So we will not TIRE and COLLAPSE
2. So we will not DESPAIR and GIVE UP