

Gaining Ground In Your Walk Of Faith

The Race Of Our Lives (Part 2)

Hebrews 12:1-3

Once again, the word **‘therefore’** is used to draw a conclusion of emphasis. In other words, from **12:1** to the end of the letter it’s all about application; it’s all about the business of living out the Christian faith. That is, it’s all about ***running the race of faith!***

I. The **Exhortation** That Has Been Given To Us (v 1c)

II. The _____ That Has Been Provided For Us (v 1a)

A. Are These Witnesses?

The word **‘therefore’** calls our attention back to chapter 11 and to those saints who demonstrated _____ faith in very difficult and demanding circumstances.

The word translated **‘cloud’** is a word that was used to refer to a _____ of people.

The word **‘witnesses’** comes from the Greek word *martus* from which we get our English word _____.

The witnesses in Hebrews 11 are not spectators who are sitting in the stands watching a race. Instead, they are witnesses in the sense that they bear _____ that the race of faith can indeed be run!

These witnesses bear testimony to at least two things:

- 1) They bear testimony that their confidence in God was not _____.
- 2) They bear testimony to the _____ - _____ grace of God.

B. Are These Witnesses? (“we have so great a cloud of witnesses **surrounding us**”)

The Greek word that is translated **‘surrounding’** simply means “to surround, or to _____.”

The word is presented in the present tense and therefore, it describes that which _____ surrounds.

Nowhere in the Bible are we told that those in Heaven are watching us. But we are told that there is a _____ who is! (**Proverbs 15:2**)

The bottom line is that this massive cloud of witnesses are saints who are giving testimony that the race can be run and that it can be run _____.

C. What Is The _____ Of These Witnesses?

What was written about the heroes of the faith was ultimately intended to _____ and _____ us.

Romans 15:4

They encourage and motivate us to run the race set before us by _____ us that sinful, weak, and often rebellious people can experience the living God and be used to bring glory to His name.

The witnesses of Hebrews 12 are the saints who have run the race, and although they are in Heaven, the testimony of their lives declares that by faith they finished the race, and that by faith _____! (**Hebrews 11:4**)

Like a relay runner who hands off the baton, so it is that every Christian is responsible to hand off the baton of _____ and _____ to the next generation.

Conclusion:

Faithfulness isn't just about our commitment to God, it's also about honoring those who entrusted the faith to us by faithfully _____ it on to others!