

Keep Running: Enduring Through Discouraging Times

December 27, 2020 by Micah Orloff

Today's Passages: Hebrews 12, Phil 1:6

2020 has brought about its challenges. 2021 is likely to lead off where 2020 left off and that can be discouraging to many. As followers of Christ, how can we respond effectively during discouraging times?

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Hebrews 12:1

Agon (Greek for Race) – a struggle, conflict, battle

This race that is set before us can be _____ –

Endurance - to remain steadfast and not swerved from our _____ even by the greatest trials and sufferings.

To endure is to keep your eye on the _____ during the agony.

What other things can keep us from achieving our purpose?

let us also lay aside every weight, and sin that clings so closely (v.1)

weights – anything that _____ you from running effectively- not necessarily sin.
and

Sin – that “easily ensnares”- aka in Greek “skillfully _____.”
We must be vigilant in our efforts to identify and lay aside these clever footholds

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
(v.1)

What does the Hall of Faith have in common with us? We all fall short of the glory of God!

Constant Reminder -we can endure because of those that have endured _____ us!

But why endure? To what end?

God can use discouraging circumstances to equip us as sons and daughters for His work.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
Hebrews 12:11

We need to look to the _____/result from discipline when struggling within discouraging times.

Learn from the Ultimate Model- Jesus! Hebrews 12:2

He who has begun a good work in you _____ complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Phil 1:6

Responding to God...

What weights are keeping me from running my race effectively?
How will I respond to those struggling during discouraging times?

Answers: agonizing, deliberate purpose, prize, hinders, surrounding, before, fruit, will