

MY RACE MARKED OUT

HEBREWS 12:1b-3

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Jesus, an even better example than the “great cloud of witnesses”, lived His life by faith and trust in His Father. I do not know what to expect, but the Father does. So I can live my life by faith, with full assurance that I am eternally secure and a great reward awaits me.

FOR NOW—I can fix my eyes on Jesus. “It was in ‘looking to him’, that we were saved, for *to look* means to trust... ‘Looking unto Jesus’ describes an *attitude* of faith and not just a single act... Since Jesus is the ‘author and finisher of our faith’, trusting Him releases His power in our lives... As we see Him in the Word and yield to His Spirit, He increases our faith and enables us to run the race.” Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament, Volume II, p. 323. (**Hebrews 12:1b, 2, fn 12:1-4, John 3:14, fn 3:14, 15, Matthew 14:22-32, fn 14:28, Romans 10:17, Luke 17:5, 6, fn 17:6**) *Why is it important that you faith keeps growing, and how could this happen for you?*

FOR SOARING FAITH—Jesus endured the cross for me by faith. “...the promise of future reward and joy gave Jesus strength to suffer.” ESV Study Bible, footnote for Hebrews 12:2. As a believer, when I experience suffering and look at Jesus’ example in His suffering, my faith can soar from knowing His presence and the joy and reward that awaits me. (**Hebrews 12:2, Luke 24:50-53, fn 24:50-53, I Peter 2:19-25, fn 2:21, 22, Hebrews 2:9, 10, fn 2:8, 9, Matthew 5:11, 12, fn 5:11, 12**) *How could looking at the cross help you to endure suffering, even suffering for your faith?*

FOR WHAT’S AHEAD— When thinking of future suffering, I know that I can endure by faith. God, in His sovereignty, created me for a certain time and place in order for me to know Him. I must understand that the future difficulties that I will face will be allowed by Him for my ultimate good and His glory (**Romans 8:28**). Nothing will come into my life unless He allows it. As I consider Jesus’ suffering, I must not grow weary and lose heart. (**Hebrews 12:3, fn 12:3, Acts 17:24-28, fn 17:27, 28, Ephesians 1:4, 5, 11, fn 1:5, fn 1:11, Luke 9:23-25, fn 9:24, 25, Philippians 4:11-13, 19, fn 4:13, fn 4:19**) *What could you do to strengthen your faith for difficulties and suffering that may be ahead?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

