

Weary, Waiting, & Worshipping

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectation.

-Andrew Murray

I. Proven Faithfulness

II. Perfect Faithfulness

III. Patient Faithfulness

Into the Bible:

1. In Hebrews 12:1 the author makes it clear that the Christian life is not merely a quick sprint to the finish line to pick up our prize, but rather a long-distance marathon requiring endurance above all. We know (or should know) the damaging effects of personal sin on our attempts to follow Christ in our lives, but what does the author mean by “every encumbrance”?
(Luke 9:57-62, Matthew 6:31-33, I Corinthians 9:24-27)

Application:

2. In long-distance running the endurance required is taxing physically and mentally. Emotionally there comes a point in such a run that runners call “hitting the wall” where it becomes very difficult not to quit. Spiritually, how do we find the will to push on when we hit this point in our lives?
(Isaiah 40:28-31, Galatians 6:9-10, II Corinthians 4:16-17)

3. “Fixing our eyes on Jesus” as both the “author and finisher of our faith” (KJV) is a great way to maintain our orientation and perspective on things as we run the race set before us. Remind yourself of Christ’s presence and initiative at the very start of your Christian journey, and the assurance of His welcome at the finish line. (Ephesians 2:1-10; Revelation 1:8, 17-18; Philippians 1:6)

For Families:

4. Talk with your children about what it takes to run the race of the Christian life.