



Day Fifteen: Abiding – Run...Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. – Hebrews 12:1-2(MSG)

In reading this passage of scripture, I'm reminded of the Boston Marathon. On race day, as the runners prepare to take their place in the race, they seem to be excited, full of energy. They are dressed in light-weight clothing, nothing that will weigh them down or hinder their run. They are huddled together and some are even paired up at the starting line waiting to hear that sound for them to begin the race.

Along the path of the race, spectators are on the sidelines chanting and screaming encouraging words as runners pass them by focused on the finish line.

We who are faith believers are a lot like the runners of the marathon, except our race isn't a race of swiftness but one of endurance! As we run our race, we are to take off every weight and sin, nothing to weigh us down. Along the way, we may feel tired, fatigued, thirsty or experience moments of wanting to give up. In the natural race we can draw strength from the praises of the spectators, encouraging our selves or from those running alongside us.

Well the same goes for our spiritual race! As we run our race, we are to focus on Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. We are surrounded by the faithful ones who ran this race before us, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Ruth, Esther... just to name a few. We have been surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses that we may receive encouragement from their testimony to endure our race in the same manner as they . The historical record of their lives, their faith and perseverance is like a

thunderous outburst of encouragement for us, a reminder that we too can finish strong, just as they did!

A successful completion of the race; to obtain our prize – Heaven! And with Jesus as our “Coach,” there's no way we can't win!

God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say the arrival would be worthwhile.

Max Lucado