



The Pioneer and Perfecter of Persevering Faith

Lesson Fifty • Hebrews 12:1-3

What's Was the Purpose of Chapter 11?

Illustrate persevering faith to motivate apathetic believers (potential apostates?!) and activate this kind of faith!

"But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." Hebrews 10:39

Chapter 11	Chapter 12:1-3
Old Covenant Examples of Persevering Faith	New Covenant Exhortation to Finish Our Race with Perseverance!
Worshippers [Abel], Walkers [Enoch], Workers [Noah], Wanderers [Patriarchs], Weighers [Moses], Watchers [Israel & Rahab], Warriors [Many Men & Women Despite the Outcome of Escaping Death or Enduring Death], Worthies [All These Pleasured God but Did Not Receive the Promise] ...	Run Like JESUS the Ultimate WINNER!
The TRAILBLAZING PIONEER of Such Faith!	JESUS The SITTING PERFECTER of Such Faith!

Persevering Faith Keeps Running Like the Ultimate Winner

1. Winners Run with Better **MOTIVATION!**

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us..." (12:1a)

Winners are motivated by the great cloud of **WITNESSES** in Hebrews 11!

- Their witness to us is God's witness about them in the **SCRIPTURES**.

What Is Their Witness to Us?

Persevering faith pleases God, so **FINISH** your race despite the outcome! (11:2, 4-5, 39)

"Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;" (11:35)

- Their witness to us in the Scriptures is like a **GREAT CLOUD**.
 1. They are **MANY** though you feel outnumbered on earth! ("great"; 4:7; 7:22)
 2. They are **ENJOYING** God's glorious presence within the veil! ("cloud;" 12:23b)
 3. They are **GATHERED** together in heaven where they kept looking and longing to live! (11:13-16; 12:22-24)
 4. They are **WHERE** Jesus, after His resurrection, has already ascended and is now seated! (Acts 1:9; Luke 9:34-35)
- Their witness to us in the Scriptures **SURROUNDS** us as we run.

2. Winners Run with Better **PREPARATION!**

"let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us," (12:1b)

Put off anything that **SLOWS** you down, or worse, **TRIPS** you up and you're so ensnared you fall away!

Hebrews 3:12-14, 17-19; 10:26; 11:25; 12:1, 3; cf. Romans 13:11-14; Ephesians 4:21-32; Colossians 3:8-14

3. Winners Run with Better **EXECUTION!**

"and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," (12:1c)

Winners Run Until They Cross God's Finish Line

➤ Run your race like it's a **MARATHON** not a sprint.

➤ Run your race with **ENDURANCE** not quitting.

Moving forward will not be easy but by God's grace through faith in Christ we can finish strong as winners!

➤ Run the race **GOD** has set before you not someone else.

1. He is in **CHARGE** of all aspects of the race.
2. He has already planned the lane for **YOU** to run in.
3. He sets the race **BEFORE** us – *don't look back or to the sidelines!*

4. Winners Run with Better **CONCENTRATION!**

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2)

➤ Jesus is the **G.O.A.T.** of all runners – *no one is a close second or even in the same class!*

1. He is the *trailblazing* **PIONEER** of persevering faith. (Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9)
2. He is the *sitting* **PERFECTER** of persevering faith. (Hebrews 5:9-10; 10:11-14)

➤ Stay **FIXATED** on this Jesus, *the unique and ultimate Winner!*

1. He ran with **FAR-SIGHTED** faith: *Seeing the joy set before Him at the finish line!*
2. He ran with **OBEDIENT** endurance: *Despising the public shame of a cross death!*
3. He ran for **GOD'S** glory: *Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God's glorious throne!*

*"...we who have **taken refuge**...have strong encouragement to take hold of the **hope set before us**. This hope we have as an **anchor of the soul**, a hope both sure and steadfast and **one which enters within the veil**, where **Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us**, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:18-20*

Run with Endurance Knowing Jesus Has Not Only Risen from the Dead but Is Now Seated in Heaven as the Pioneer and Perfecter of Persevering Faith for Each Runner in God's Marathon!

- Whenever you feel alone and wonder if the Christian life is worth running since so few join the race or finish it, remember the *great glory cloud of finishers* who have already finished the race and entered into the joy of God's glorious presence!
- Whatever is slowing you down you or tripping you up, look up to Jesus who has already faced it and overcome it with sinless obedience as *our trailblazing Pioneer – follow His example of persevering faith!*
- Whenever you wonder if you are unworthy to draw near to God's throne of grace for help or forgiveness in your time of need, draw near to Jesus who is sitting there as the victorious *Priest-King who is the perfected Perfecter –He has already perfected those who trust in Him and will enable your faith to persevere!*
- Whenever you feel like drifting, slacking, or quitting because the race is long and the heat is intense, don't grow weary and lose heart! Look upward and onward to Jesus who endured the cross, rose from the dead, and is now sitting at God's right hand as the unique and ultimate Winner!

Easter Blessing • Hebrews 13:20-21

*"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, **even** Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom **be** the glory forever and ever. Amen."*