A RACE YOU WANT TO FINISH HEBREWS 12:1-3 | ERIC SIMPSON | AUGUST 24, 2025



Congratulations to all of those going into the waters of baptism today:

Eli Swiney Riley Slavens Hannah Slavens Jen Rumbaoa Josiah Smiley Mirajane Dennis Jasin Dennis jr. Karalie Dennis Aaron Lang Jackson Lang Poppy Strickland Maci Burger Chase Ford Zach Ford

Caleb Voss Bennet Hines Ty Callen Emma Witzig Amelia Olsen Greyson Visher Aden Culley Sabrinia Rohl Addie Turnquist Rheagan Stibolt Bradley Poland

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience." – Jim Irsay

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

Remember that you are not alone.

- Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, teachers, mentors, spiritual heroes
- Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua...etc.
- If they ran the race in the midst of all they faced then we can too.

Be honest about the stuff that's holding you back.

- Relationship that needs cut off?
 Habit that needs to change?
 Priorities that need to shift?
- sin = those things that pull us away from God, distract us, deaden our soul
- signature sins = those patterns that repeatedly trip us up

Persevere when times get tough.

- perseverance = keeps grinding no matter the circumstances
- Perseverance only makes sense if you're heading in the right direction.
- If you're on the wrong road, going the wrong direction then it's foolish to keep going. But if you're on the right road then it's foolish to quit.

Lock-in on the person of Jesus.

- Jesus ran the race the Father had set for him, and finished.
- Now, he turns to us and says...let's go, lock-in, I started a good work in you and I'll be faithful to carry it on to completion.

"Christians tramp well-worn paths: obedience has a history. This history is important for without it we are at the mercy of whims...as the people of God, we need more data to work from than our own experience can give us...A Christian who has David in his bones, Jeremiah in his bloodstream, Paul in his fingertips, and Christ in his heart will know how much or how little value to put on his own momentary feelings and the experience of the past week."

— Eugene Peterson

NEXT STEPS

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- DATE NIGHT (MARRIAGE EVENT) | SEPT 5, 7-9PM
- STUDENT MINISTRY | SUNDAYS | MIDDLE-SCHOOL 10AM, HIGH SCHOOL, 4-6PM
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