

## BUILDING ON OUR PAST....BELIEVING IN OUR FUTURE: RUNNING THE RACE

### THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELIEF AND FAITH

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1)

### DISCIPLINE

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." <sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:5b-11)*

*Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.....<sup>27</sup>But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:25,27)*

### 1. REQUIRES REMOVING THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE

#### MEMORY VERSE

*let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:1b)*

*Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. (2 Timothy 2:3-4)*

#### a. RELATIONSHIPS

<sup>37</sup>*"If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. (Matthew 10:37)*

#### b. FINANCES

*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24)*

#### c. PRIORITIES

*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. (Matthew 6:33)*

#### d. THOUGHT LIFE

*pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

<sup>3</sup>*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Hebrews 12:3-4)*

<sup>8</sup>*And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (Matthew 18:8-9)*

*If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. <sup>39</sup>If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.*

(Matthew 10:38-39)

### Hold On Pain Ends

What is keeping you from following Jesus with your whole heart, mind and soul?

#### **2. IS FOCUSED ON THE GOAL OF SALVATION**

*looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)*

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)*

*So I do not run aimlessly; (1 Corinthians 9:26a)*

*But the word of God cannot be chained. <sup>10</sup>So I am willing to endure anything if it will bring salvation and eternal glory in Christ Jesus to those God has chosen. (2 Timothy 2:9-10)*

*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (Romans 8:5)*

What is your goal for the salvation of others?

#### **3. HAS BLESSINGS**

*For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:10-11)*

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.....They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. (1 Corinthians 9:24, 25b)*

What will be the greatest reward in heaven?