

Keeping Eyes on Jesus

With such witnesses, let us run with eyes fixed on Jesus

- 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 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

In our struggles, may we remember God's loving discipline

- ⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
- ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."
- ⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?
- ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

God's discipline can be painful but fruitful if we can learn

- ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for awhile as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

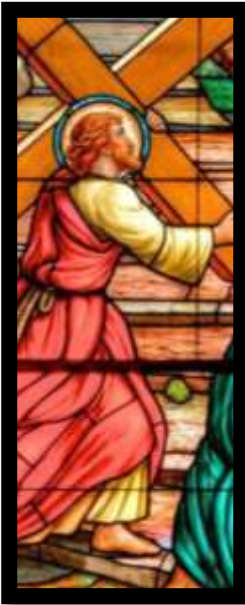
If we cooperate, we gain peace with God and with others

- ¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.
- ¹³ "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed. ¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
- ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:1-15



If you commit yourself to the love of Christ,
then you will run a straight race.

Eric Liddell



Keeping Eyes on Jesus for a life well run

What makes us stumble: sin & self-indulgence
What slows us down: good things over-done
We can only master them with the help of Jesus

The Father Disciplines Those He Loves

Troubles and difficulties can be ways he teaches us
As we endure them well, he can redeem them
If we are willing, he gives his peace and wisdom

Forgetting what is behind and straining to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13-14 RSV

The Commands of Jesus

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Portions of Matthew 22:37-38



Northwood Alliance Church
Blaine, Washington
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Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in Hebrews 12:2 The Message

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- Page 1 Photo: *Jesus Carrying Cross* by Titian, 1565 (wikipedia.com)
- Page 3 Photo: *God Made Me for China*, Eric Liddell (washingtontimes.com)
- Page 4 Stained Glass Detail: *Jesus with His Cross* (Ottawa Notre Dame Cathedral)

CEV

We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete. He endured the shame of being nailed to a cross, because he knew that later on he would be glad he did. Now he is seated at the right side of God's throne!

EHV

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne.

GNT

Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end.

ICB

Let us look only to Jesus. He is the one who began our faith, and he makes our faith perfect.

KJV

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

TLB

Keep your eyes on Jesus, our leader and instructor. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterwards; and now he sits in the place of honor by the throne of God.

MSG

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.

MEV

Let us look to Jesus, the author and finisher 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.

NCV

Let us look only to Jesus, the One who began our faith and who makes it perfect. He suffered death on the cross. But he accepted the shame as if it were nothing because of the joy that God put before him. And now he is sitting at the right side of God's throne.

NLV

Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him and He is the One Who makes it perfect. He did not give up when He had to suffer shame and die on a cross. He knew of the joy that would be His later. Now He is sitting at the right side of God.

WE

We must keep our eyes on Jesus. He believed from first to last. What was put in front of him made him glad, so he did not give up when the people nailed him on a cross. He did not care about the shame. And now he is sitting beside God.