

May 19, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Heb. 12:1-3 *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, 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. Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* (NIV)

The writer of Hebrews gives some wise counsel to us as we walk through this earthly life. In a nutshell, he is saying to get rid of the excess baggage of our lives. You know what that is for you. Things you cling to that are of no eternal value. Yes, they may have some sentimental tie, but have nothing to do with the life that the LORD is leading you to live. And even those things, although they are not evil in and of themselves, can distract us from living the life that the LORD has set for us.

Instead, we are to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. This can only happen if we persevere. We cannot give up or give in to our selfish desires. We must hold firm to the promise that He has made. I'm reminded of Paul's encouragement to the church in Corinth: **1 Cor. 15:58** *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain.* (NIV) The Greek word for *stand firm* carries the same connotation as *fixing our eyes on Jesus*. In essence, when we stay spiritually focused on the Savior, then our actions will follow.

Dear LORD, You are absolute God. You hold things in Your hands and in Your plan. Why would we look anywhere else for Your blessing and Your provision? Help us to fix our eyes on You and not be distracted by worldly things. In Jesus Name, Amen