

## Tag Him; He's Your Only Hope

Hebrews 12:2

“Let us run the race 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.”

Last time I showed you that your Christian life is compared to an athletic event (i.e. race). The race of Hebrews 12:1 is more like a wrestling match than a foot race. When I was a kid we would have matches where the neighborhood kids would *tag team* wrestle. When you were getting tired, you tagged your teammate. Hebrews 12:2 gives us an indication of how we are to fight the fight of faith: We tag Him!

### I. He is the Focus of Faith ... “fixing our eyes on Jesus ...” (KJV: Looking unto Jesus)

Again, this is not like you look at Jesus as if He is standing at the finish line. He's in the battle with you. These three words have a much richer meaning than our English translation suggests. The verb is a compound word which involves (1) Looking away from self and (2) Looking (peering) into Jesus. “Look unto me, and be delivered: for I am God, and there is none else” (Isaiah 45:22). If in your faith you focus on your commitment, your abilities, your promises, you will be knocked out by the enemy.

A. When you began your Christian faith, were you more excited about Him or yourself?

B. As you continue in your faith do you get more excited about Him or yourself?

One of the measures of what excites you is the time you spend in discovery of new treasures.

### II. He is the Forerunner of Faith ... “the author (forerunner) of our faith ...”

This is the word that is used in Hebrews 2:10 when Paul calls the Lord Jesus Christ, “the **Captain** of our Salvation.” It comes from a root word that means “commence.” He is the One who commences faith. We would have no faith, if He did not give it to us. But there is more! Notice the word “our” is in italics, indicating that it was added by our translators. The intent of the author of Hebrews is to teach us that Christ is the One who is the great pioneer and example of faith. Look to His example!

A. He has blazed a trail that is easy for you to follow when you keep your eyes on Him.

B. He has displayed the strength and wisdom to overcome all discouragements in your life.

C. He endured all the trials brought upon him by His Father's wise providence and so can you.

D. He never received a blessing without giving thanks to the Father for what He received (Lazarus).

E. By our Savior's example we are taught what it is to believe God, what it is to live by faith.

### III. He is the Finisher of Faith ... “the perfecter (KJV: finisher) of our faith ...”

This word *perfecter* or *finisher* is found nowhere else in the Bible. Christ consummates, completes, and finishes our faith. “He who began a good work within you will carry it to completion” (Phil. 1:6). The person who comes to frustration and despair ultimately is distrusting the Perfecter and Finisher.

### IV. He is the Fruit of Faith ... “Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross ...”

The joy set before Christ is you. Christ accomplished for you what would normally be required of you.

A. He endured the cross ... the judgment of God against your sin was endured by Jesus Himself.

B. Despising the shame ... the shame of your sin is gone—despised by Christ—and borne by Him.

C. And is now sat down ... He has finished the work. He is at rest; now enter into His rest.

D. At the right hand of God ... again, God has no right hand. This is a metaphor that everything the Father delights to give to His Son, He delights to give to those who love His Son. As you run the race; never take your eyes off Jesus. He is the *focus*, *forerunner*, *finisher* and *fruit* of faith.