

I. We are encouraged to run by the cloud of witnesses

A. They are people who have faith in God

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

B. They are people who have finished their race

II. We are challenged to do our best

A. We must keep our priorities straight

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

B. We must live a life of holiness

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the world.” (1 John 2:1-2)

III. We are commanded to never quit

A. We must run with perseverance

B. We must run our own race

IV. We are guided by focusing on Jesus

A. We think about who Jesus is

“Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.” (Hebrews 3:1)

B. We think about what Jesus has done

1. He is our great example of faith

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you as an example that you should follow in his steps.” (1 Peter 2:21)

2. He is the object of our faith

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

3. He is our intercessor by faith

“Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”  
(Romans 8:34)

V. We are called to finish our race well

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

A. Remembering Jesus will empower our running

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

B. Remembering Jesus will encourage our heart

“But one thing I do, forgetting about what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)