

Sunday Morning, September 1, 2024  
Hebrews 12:1–4  
Looking Forward by Looking Up

- I. Two Encouragements to Run with Faith
  - A. Old Testament Believers Encourage You to Run with Faith Heb. 12:1
  
  - B. Jesus Himself Encourages You to Run with Faith Heb. 12:2–4
    - 1. Similar: Christ Ran the Same Race Track as Us 12:2 “Founder’ of Faith
  
    - 2. Similar: Christ Ran the Same Way as Us 12:2 “Perfecter’ of Faith  
Heb. 2:13; Heb. 10:7–10; Heb. 5:7–8; Heb. 2:10; Rev. 3:21
  
    - 3. Contrast: Christ Ran Much Harder Race— Greater Suffering than Us Heb. 12:4
  
- II. Four Exhortations to Run with Faith
  - A. You must Put Away All Encumbrances Heb. 12:1
    - 1. What Are the Encumbrances?
  
    - 2. How to Deal with Encumbrances?
      - a. Calls for Self-denial Matt. 16:24–25
  
      - b. Calls for Discipline 1 Tim. 4:7; 1 Cor. 9:24–27
  
  - B. You must Put Away Entangling Sin Heb. 3:12
  
  - C. You must Run with Endurance Heb. 12:1, 3–4
  
  - D. You Need to Run with Expectation  
Heb. 12:2b; Jn. 12:27–28; Isa. 53:10; Matt. 25:21; 1 Cor. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:5–6

## Quotes

“Tertullian fought a mighty battle against Marcion, Athanasius fought against the Arians; Augustine fought against Pelagius; and as for Luther, he fought a brave battle against kings and princes and popes for the liberty of the people of God. Luther was a great fighter; and we love him for it. So was Calvin; so were John Knox and all the rest. It is impossible to be a true soldier of Jesus Christ and not fight.” Excerpt from Machen’s last sermon at Princeton seminary

“It is required of Christians that they be strong in faith, with a firm grasp upon the promises, doing all things, daring all things, enduring all things for Christ’s sake. There is no room for cowardice and vacillation and shrinking from what is difficult and toilsome. Christ must be followed through evil and through good report; his commands must be obeyed at all hazards; the burdens which he lays upon you must be borne without faintheartedness.” William Green

“If unmmortified sin in any prevalent degree do abide in us, we shall never be able to hold out in our race unto the end.” John Owen

“There is no reason for us to seek our discharge from the Lord, whatever service we have performed, because Christ does not have any discharged soldiers except those who have conquered death itself.” John Calvin

“Every step of the road, you have to cut your way through opposing foes. Every step of the road has to be marked with the blood that comes from wounded feet. Every step of the road is won by a tussle and a strife. There is no spiritual life without dying, there is no spiritual growth without putting off ‘the old man with his affections and lusts.’ The hands cannot move freely until the bonds be broken. The new life that is in us cannot run with patience the race that is set before it, until t old life that is in us is put down and subdued. And if we fancy that we are to get to heaven by a process of persistent growth, without painful self-sacrifice and martyrdom, we know nothing about it.” MaClaren

## Climbing

*Is this the right road home, O Lord? The clouds are dark and still, The stony path is sharp and hard.  
Each step brings some fresh hill. I thought the road would brighter grow,  
And that the sun with warmth would glow, Joyous songs from free hearts flow. Is this the right road home?*

*Yes, child; this is the very path I trod. The clouds were dark for Me. The stony path was hard to tread.  
Not sight but faith can see That at the end the sun shines bright Forever where there is no night,  
And glad hearts rest from earth's fierce fight. It is the right road home."*

Mrs. Goforth, missionary to China