

The Gospel According To . . .

READY, SET, GO! *Hebrews 12:1-4*

The writer of Hebrews, gives us a picture of a stadium where there are people in the stands watching and cheering for the runners at the starting blocks of a race. Nonetheless, regardless of how many people cheer us on externally, we still have some internal work to do. I recently ran a 5k and my family was there cheering me on, but as I waited for the gun to go off I realized that I was at the starting line by myself. They could encourage me, but they couldn't run my race, I actually had to do the work. That's when self-doubt started to creep in.

The weight the writer refers to is not physical. It can't be measured in pounds and inches; it's measured in emotions, fears, hurts, and disappointments. You can't make it to the finish line weighed down with coulda's, shoulda's, and woulda's... Even though, there are some things that happen we can't control, we use those things as crutches which only weakens our faith. Most of the time, if we are honest, we are our own enemy, and our mind, attitude, and actions prevent us from crossing the finish line and not what someone else has done to us.

All races require that we pace ourselves, our lives are no exception. Sometimes we run too fast and get winded or we run too slow thinking that finishing only happens to other people. How and when to adjust our pace requires wisdom from God, listening to the Holy Spirit, and being obedient to both. Your race isn't linear, it doesn't progress in a straight line on a flat surface, you can't run the same way and pace up a hill as you would downhill.

My race is my race, your race is your race. I can't analyze or judge someone else's race, no more than I can rerun races from my past. We waste so much time worrying about what others are doing, not doing, or trying to recapture what was, we missed out on what IS! This is why the rearview mirror is so much smaller than the windshield.

Finally, what you are going through may be an uphill struggle and seemingly insurmountable, but don't let the situation cause you to throw in the towel! We have to maintain the right perspective, which is, Jesus endured the cross so that you can endure the race that's set before you.

There were times I wanted to stop and walk like I saw others doing, but I kept running, slowing at times, but I didn't quit. I don't know what you are experiencing today, but I want to encourage you... its ok to slow down, just don't stop! Keep going! You WILL make it to the finish line in the time that God has appointed for you. Don't look to your right, left, or behind you... keep looking forward... Keep looking to Jesus... and run your RACE!!

**MINISTER TAMARA
THOMAS-THORPE**



**WORD ASSEMBLY
REV. JOHNNIE CLARK, JR.,
PASTOR
11865 LARCH ROAD
TRACY, CA 95376**

POSTED SEPTEMBER 2017