

## **“The Right Motivation Not to Give Up”**

Hebrews 12:1-2

Sunday Evening, January 5, 2020

**Introduction:** Life has some twist, turns, and disappointments that can tempt us to give up in life. We have all been there, some may be there now, and all will be there if Jesus tarries. Jesus told us that in this live we would have some difficult things come (John 16:33).

**Text:** Hebrews 12:1-2

- The Bible uses the metaphor of a race for the Christian life.
- Paul said, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).
- In Paul’s letter to the Christians at Galatia, he said, “You ran well” (Galatians 5:7).
- In our text, “...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...” (Hebrews 12:1).
- The right motivation to not give up in life is the godly examples of faith in Hebrews chapter 11.
- The deceased people in chapter 11 are not spectators in heaven looking down and cheering for us.
- They deceased people in chapter 11 are examples in heaven that we need to look up to for motivation to keep going when we are tempted to give up.
- This is what the phrase “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” means.
- “Endurance” is determination to keep going when tempted to give up.

**Question:** How do we keep going when we are tempted to give up in life?

**Answer:**

1. **When we are tempted to give up in life, we need to fix our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).**

**Application:** Let me mention three things to help you keep your eyes on Jesus.

1. Read the Bible daily. It will be one of the hardest things you will ever try to do because Satan knows the power of God’s Word.
2. Get a life verse for 2020. If you will read your Bible daily with consistency a live verse will come.

3. Memorize Scripture.

**4. When we are tempted to give up in life, we need to keep our view on the end of the race (Hebrews 12:2).**

- This is what Jesus did (Hebrews 12:2). He could have called twelve legions of angels (Matthew in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He did not (Matthew 26:52).
- Likewise, on the cross Jesus could have called for the angels to help Him, but He did not.
- Jesus kept His view of the end.
- This is what the apostle Paul did (Phil. 3: 20-21)

**Application:** When we are going through our hard times, we need to keep our view on the end of the race. The end is all good!

**Conclusion:** Corrie ten Boom once said, "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, don't throw away your ticket and jump off the train. You sit still and trust the engineer."

Her quote reminds me of the song "Life is like a mountain railroad." One of the lines in the song says, "Keep your hand on the throttle and your eyes on the rails."

With God as our "engineer" and the Bible as our "rails" we do not need to jump on the "train" regardless of what happens!