

Hebrews 12:1, 2
The Crowd That Is Cheering You On

Reflection:

Do you sense the support of the crowd of witnesses in Scripture and in your life urging you forward with Christ? Have you found yourself pulling back from Jesus in some way that needs Christ's perfecting work today?

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: Hebrews 4:12. Describe your interaction with the Word on a regular basis? Do you allow the room for the Word to act this way in your life?

Tuesday: Hebrews 11:1. What is "faith" according to this verse? How does this definition compare to others you have heard or came up with yourself?

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 3:2-3. What does the "letter" that is your life look like? Could someone carry it to someone else to show proof of the work of Christ?

Thursday: Hebrews 10:32-39. What are the most challenging parts of this passage? In what ways have you been tempted to fall into the sin of "shrinking back"?

Friday: Philippians 3:12-16. Describe all of the elements of Paul's endurance in Christ. Which of these have you done in following Jesus?

Saturday: Philippians 2:9-11. When you consider Jesus as your King, how does that change your perspective and your actions?

1. We Have This Crowd

A. Who Are the Witnesses?

B. What Makes Them So Special?

The living nature of the Word

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12 ESV

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." -Hebrews 11:1 ESV

"And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11:39-40 ESV

"You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 ESV

2. What Entangles Us Then?

A. All Out Faith in Action

B. Pulling Back from All the Lord has

Hebrews 10:19-39

"But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God

you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls." -Hebrews 10:32-39 ESV

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
Hebrews 10:31 NASB

But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul. -Hebrews 10:39 NASB

C. Faith is the victory
Hebrews 11 Revisited

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"
Romans 8:31-32 ESV

3. Focus 2

A. Jesus is everything
Author and Finisher
"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." -Revelation 1:8 NASB

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
Revelation 22:13 NASB

The Perfecter-

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, -Hebrews 5:8-9 NASB

And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.
Hebrews 11:39-40 NASB

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. -James 1:4 NASB

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. -
Matthew 5:48 NASB

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained. -Philippians 3:12-16 NASB

but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.
1 Corinthians 13:10 NASB

B. Jesus Paid It All. All to Him I Owe
C. Jesus Is King!

Why would you serve anyone else?

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."
Philippians 2:9-11 ESV