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RUNNING THE RACE

In Hebrews 12:1 it says, ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”*** In our modern age, we use the “cloud” to upload many things. Pictures, documents, videos, and it becomes storage. In this instance in scripture, there is also an upload. The cloud is all of those in the previous chapter that went through tremendous trials. Some were cut in two. Some were killed with the sword. Some were destitute, afflicted, and tormented. This “cloud” of witnesses let’s the believer know that there will be many obstacles to our “race.”

These scriptures are not put there to discourage us. They are put there to let us know the cost to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. What is the cost? Your life! Everything you have belongs to God when we become his child through salvation. Yet, everything God has is ours through salvation too. The race can be exceedingly difficult, but He runs with us. He is there to pick us up when we stumble and fall, then encourages us to keep going.

The option to quit is there for each of us. Years ago, I went through three hurricanes that damaged a small business I had. The roof was taken off the building and water poured in each time a hurricane came. When the last one came through and I was cleaning up the mess again, I spoke to the Lord and said, “I don’t want to do this anymore.” He responded with tenderness and love and said, “that is okay if you choose to do so, but who will tell people about me?” I said okay Lord, I will keep going on, and I did. Eventually I gave up the business for ministry through our church thrift shop. Then a year ago, that also closed. It would be easy to give up the race, and stand on the sidelines, but I will always hear the Lord speaking “who will tell people about me.”

Are you discouraged my friends at the things happening in your life? I am sure many that are reading this can relate to discouragement. Some may be depressed, and some on the verge of bankruptcy, yet God has a plan. Every one of those mentioned in Hebrews 11 did not value their lives over their call. They were sold out.

Let us make the decision to encourage ourselves in the Lord and continue to run the race. He will be with you all the way to the finish line!