

## Faith Alive! Church

October 1, 2017



The *faithful* believers throughout the centuries honored in Hebrews chapter 11 now stand, as a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith.

The heroes of faith are *not* just spectators watching us from heaven; rather their lives *are* witnesses to us, of *having* successfully overcome.

Their lives *describe* a marathon, a test of stamina, and a life-long commitment of service. We are *reminded* that the first step of preparation for running a race *requires* that the racers strip off every *weight* that might slow them down. Now, the many “weights”

referenced may *not necessarily* be sinful acts, but could be anything that holds us back *such as*; our use of time, wrong forms of entertainment, or improper relationships.

**The Parable of ‘the Farmer, who sowed his seed’ as found in the 3 Gospels - Warns us *about* being ‘weighed down or consumed with’ the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches and the affairs of life.** So, it is especially important to *strip off* anything that would hinder our progress.

Greed, pride, arrogance, lust, gossip, dishonesty, excess pleasure, and stealing *can* cause believers to drift off their spiritual course.

Believers ‘must stay on course and must run with endurance’ the race of faith, that God has set before them. And remember, we do *not* struggle alone, and we are *not* the first to struggle with the problems we face.

1 Corinthians 10:13 *tells us* that these types of struggles are common to all men; but it also *tells us* that God gives us the ‘inner strength and endurance’ to overcome.

**God is faithful, and we must remember that while running our race, staying the course and keeping the faith - The key is to look at nothing *but* Jesus, the one who began, *and* who will complete your faith.**

So, **Embrace** God’s training *through* discipline, **know** that it *produces* ‘peace and righteousness’ and **Remember**, that others have *run* this race, *overcome* and *won*.

**Now, their witness stirs us to run, overcome, and win as well in Jesus name!**

That is why it is important to remember *those* who have *went* before us in the faith, and honor *those* who currently stand with *us* in the faith of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I believe that one of the *best ways* we can honor those who have *gone* before us and those who currently *stand* with us; is to *simply* live a life that *pleases* God with our *whole* heart!