



# FAITH FULL

FUELING YOUR FAITH IN A WORLD ON EMPTY

# THE **BOOK** OF **HEBREWS**

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## **RUNNING** THE **RACE**





# FAITH FULL

FUELING YOUR FAITH IN A WORLD ON EMPTY

**MESSAGE 12: CELEBRATION**

# THE CHALLENGE RUN



*As for me, my **life** has already been **poured out**  
as an **offering** to God. The **time** of my **death** is near.  
I have **fought** the good **fight**, I have **finished** the **race**,  
and I have remained **faithful**.*

*And now the **prize** awaits me –  
the **crown of righteousness** (God's applause!),  
which the **Lord**, the righteous **Judge**,  
will give me on the **day** of his **return**.*

*And the **prize** is not just for me but for **all**  
who **eagerly** await his **appearing**.*

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NLT



*The level of **celebration**  
always **corresponds** to the  
degree of the **challenge**?*



Think about the *moments of celebration* in your life. Haven't most of them come after a *time of persevering*, of *grinding* it out? You wanted to *quit* but you didn't. You're able to *celebrate* because you *kept going*. You have a *learning disability*, but you *ace* an exam. You haven't been *treated fairly*, but you *land* the promotion. You've *struggled* with *infertility*, but you find out you're *expecting*. You almost *walked out*, but now you're *celebrating* your thirtieth anniversary. You *battled* your *addiction*, but now you're ten years *sober*. The *chemo* and *radiation* were devastating, but you finally hear the word *remission*.

Kyle Idleman: Don't Give Up



**IT'S WHEN NOT IF:  
YOU'LL BE TESTED.**





*Timothy, please come as soon as you can,  
Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life  
(having loved this present world) and has gone to Thessalonica.  
Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia.*

*Only Luke is (remains) with me.*

*Bring Mark with you when you come, ...*

*Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, ...*

*The first time I was brought before the judge,  
no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me.*

*May it not be counted against them.*

*But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength  
so that I might preach the Good News ...*

2 Timothy 4:9-17 NLT



# **TWO KINDS OF TESTS:**

- **LIFE IS TOO HARD**
- **LIFE IS TOO EASY**



Even in *times of trouble* (i.e., problems and trials) we have a *joyful confidence*, knowing that our *pressures* (tribulations) will develop in us patient *endurance*. And patient *endurance* will *refine* our *character*, and proven *character* leads us back to (*strengthens*) *hope*. And this *hope* is not a disappointing *fantasy*, because we now *experience* the endless *love* of God cascading into *our hearts* through the *Holy Spirit* who *lives in us* (fills our heart).

Romans 5:3b-5 TPT



*Dear brothers and sisters,  
when **troubles** of any kind come your way,  
consider it an **opportunity** for **great joy**.  
For you know that when your **faith** is **tested**,  
your **endurance** has a chance to **grow**.  
So **let it** grow (do its **work**),  
for when your **endurance** is fully developed (**mature**),  
you will be **perfect** and **complete**, needing nothing  
(nothing **missing** and nothing **lacking**).*

James 1:2-4 NLT



*Where is the “ideal” testing site  
for our **endurance** to grow  
and our **character** to be refined  
as Jesus **followers**?*



*In light of (considering) the heightening **turmoil** and **tumult** (**pressures, tests** and **challenges**) in the world around us, if we are to **stand strong** in the days ahead, we will need the quality of **endurance** in our lives.*

*We see from the **words** of both the **Apostle Paul** and **James**, Jesus' brother, that **endurance** through **testing** builds **character**.*

*If you and I will **hold on** through the **tests**, they will **shape** every aspect of our **character** and **personality**-with very few areas exempted.*

*Most of these **character** shaping **tests** will come in the context of close, **committed fellowship**. When we don't **allow** ourselves to get **close** to people, you and I can **cover up** the **cracks** in our character.*

*But when we are exposed to **regular, intimate, vulnerable** fellowship, we are forced either to **back out** or **face up** to what God is **addressing** in us.*

*I believe there is no greater **testing site** for our **character** in Christ than when we are in **close committed fellowship** with believers.*

Derek Prince: Pressures, Tests & Challenges



**CLOSE COMMITTED  
FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**



*Have you ever **fallen** or **failed**  
when **tested** in your life's **race**?*

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*Have you **forgotten** the **prize**  
(**crown of righteousness**)?*





Therefore, since we are *surrounded* by such a *huge crowd* (cloud) of *witnesses* to the *life of faith*, let us *strip off* (throw off) *every weight* (hindrance) that *slows us* down, especially *the sin* that so easily trips us up (*entangles*).

And *let us run* with *endurance* the *race* (agon) God has set before us. We do this by *keeping* (fixing) *our eyes* on *Jesus*, the *champion* who initiates (*pioneers*) and perfects (*matures*) our faith. Because of the *joy* awaiting him, he *endured* the (*agony*) cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is *seated* in the place of *honor* beside (right hand) *God's throne*. Think of all the *hostility* (opposition) he (Jesus) *endured* from sinful people; then you won't become *weary* and *give up* (under life's *pressures*).

Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT



# **DISCOVERY** BIBLE STUDY

*How to build an enduring, go the distance faith ...*

## **THE BOOK OF HEBREWS**

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**Read** Hebrews 12: 1-29 (3 Translations)

**DBS:** Hebrews 12:1-6 (6 verses)

**(Three-Column Study)**

