

**Bible Lesson**

**Running the Race of Faith**  
Hebrews 12

13

<sup>1</sup>Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
Heb 12: 1-2

14

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

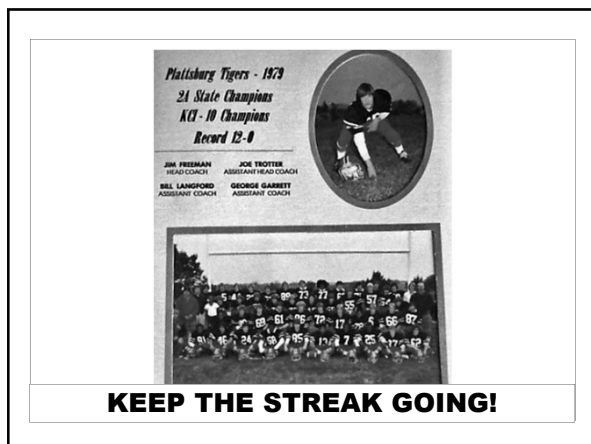
1. We have a real connection w/past runners
2. We must run the race as God prescribes it
3. Our entire focus while running is on Jesus

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**What are the main points of emphasis?**

1. We have a real connection w/past runners
  - a. **Emphasis on “we” & “us”**; cf. 11:39-40
    - 1) connection w/OT martyrs intentional
    - 2) sports analogy: stadium, race, contest

16



17

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

1. We have a real connection w/past runners
  - a. **Emphasis on “we” & “us”**; cf. 10:39-40
    - 1) connection w/OT martyrs intentional
    - 2) rolls chapter 11 into sports analogy
  - b. **United w/martyrs who finished race**
    - 1) stood firm in faith against opposition
    - 2) finished well and were rewarded

18

**Remember...**

- 1. We have a real connection w/past runners

19

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

- 2. We must run the race as God prescribes it
  - a. He lays out the course for us

<sup>13</sup>**Enter by the narrow gate;**  
for wide is the gate and broad is the way  
that leads to destruction  
and there are many who go in by it.

<sup>14</sup>Because narrow is the gate  
and **difficult is the way which leads to life,**  
and there are few who find it.

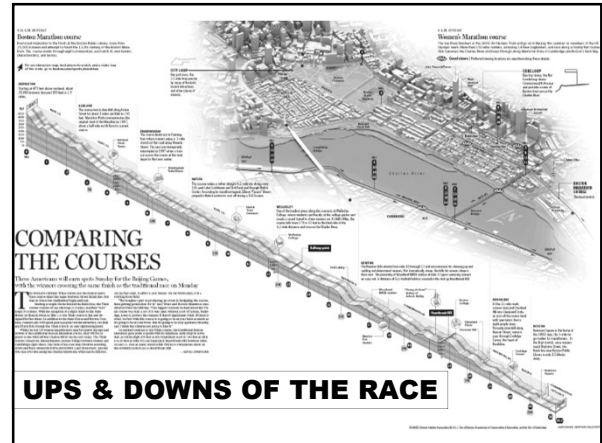
Mt 7: 13-14

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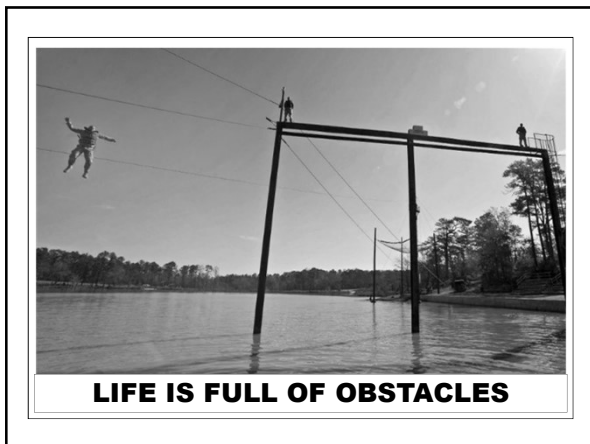
**What are the main points of emphasis?**

- 2. We must run the race as God prescribes it
  - a. He lays out the course for us
    - 1) Same path for all...
    - 2) Yet individually tailored acc. to His will
    - 3) With ups & downs, obstacles etc.
    - 4) Training us for endurance
    - 5) And shaping our faith & character

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22



**LIFE IS FULL OF OBSTACLES**

23



**PAIN & SUFFERING—  
AS PREP FOR  
REAL ORDEAL**

4. "Nothing lasts forever."

24

“  
You cannot live with God forever,  
unless you are His kind of holiness.”

25

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

2. We must run the race as God prescribes it

- a. He lays out the course for us
- b. Casting off weights, aiming for the finish

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**CAN YOU  
EVER BE  
YOUR BEST  
...**

**WHEN SIN  
HOLDS YOU  
BACK?**

**YOUR GOAL IS TO FINISH WELL**

27

**YOUR GOAL IS TO FINISH WELL**

28

**YOUR REWARD IS BETTER THAN THIS**

29

**Remember...**

2. We must run the race as God prescribes it

30

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

- 3. Our entire focus while running is on Jesus
  - a. He “births” faith in us & completes it
    - 1) Always has been relational
    - 2) Designed to be familial

31

“

If you are born again of God’s Spirit,  
 God conceived you  
 and you came into being.  
**You did not conceive yourself.”**

32

**JUST AS WITH  
PHYSICAL BIRTH**



**SO TOO WITH  
SPIRITUAL BIRTH**



33

**<sup>18</sup>Of His own will He brought us forth  
 by the word of truth,  
 that we might be a kind of firstfruits  
 of His creatures.  
 James 1: 18**

**<sup>23</sup>Having been born again,  
 not of corruptible seed but incorruptible,  
 through the word of God  
 which lives and abides forever  
 1Peter 1: 23**

34

<sup>7</sup>“Do not marvel that I said to you,  
 ‘You must be born again.’  
<sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes,  
 and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell  
 where it comes from and where it goes.  
**So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”**  
 John 3: 7-8

“And you **He made alive,**  
 who were dead in trespasses and sins”  
 Ephesians 2: 1

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**“At the tomb,  
 Lazarus didn’t pray; Jesus did.”**

36

**What are the main points of emphasis?**

3. Our entire focus while running is on Jesus

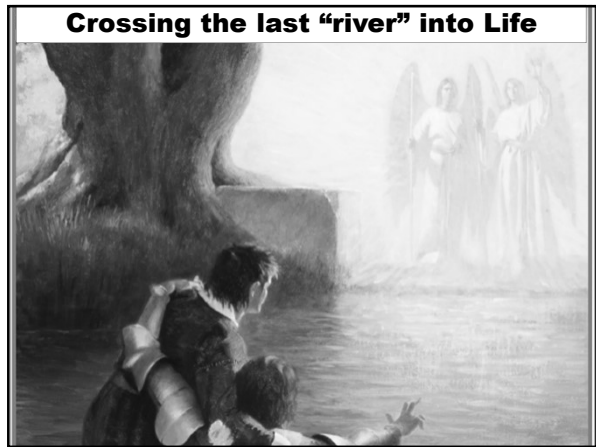
a. He “births” faith in us & completes it

b. Troubles will occur **before** victory is won

37

**THE GREATEST TRIAL STILL AWAITS...**

38



39

“

No faith is so precious as that  
which lives and triumphs **through adversity.**  
Tested faith brings experience.  
You would never have believed your own weakness  
**had you not needed to pass through trials.**  
And you would never have known God’s strength  
**had His strength not been needed  
to carry you through.”**

—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

40

**The main points again...**

1. We have a real connection w/past runners

2. We must run the race as God prescribes it

3. Our entire focus while running is on Jesus

41

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