

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1b-3, NASB)

Once a runner has laid aside everything that would hinder or distract him, he keeps all his attention fixed on the goal toward which he is racing. For us, it is crucial that we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. Why?

1. He is the author of our faith. He is its originator, founder, and leader. Since the very beginning, He has been the Word of God—God’s creative, all-powerful, sovereign Word. Through Him, God brings to reality all that He has planned. Thus we put our faith in Jesus Christ and all God has done through Him.
2. Jesus is also the perfecter of our faith. All that He was in His earthly ministry, He was by faith in His Father. Jesus modeled total dependence and constant trust. In Him we see the beauty of a complete and unbroken relationship with the Father. In Him we see perfect faith.
3. Jesus endured the cross because of *the joy set before Him*. He obeyed, not out of obligation, but out of *joy*. What motivated Him was the joy of oneness with His Father, and the joy of sharing that oneness with us.
4. Jesus *despised the shame* of the cross. The cross was, first and foremost, an instrument of shame. It was designed to expose the crucified one to maximum humiliation. That’s why crucifixions were staged at the most public and heavily-traveled places. By law, Roman citizens could not be crucified. It would be unfitting to disgrace any Roman citizen that way. But realize that when our text says that Jesus *despised* the shame, it doesn’t mean that He hated it. It means that Jesus disregarded the shame. He counted it as nothing, as insignificant, unworthy of consideration, in light of the great joy that would grow from it.
5. This One who endured the maximum suffering and the maximum humiliation is now enjoying the maximum exaltation. He has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

As you face the struggles of faith, fix your eyes on Jesus. As you endure unjust suffering, look to Him. The author and perfecter of our faith endured far more than we will ever experience. He endured it all out of joy. He is now at the right hand of God, and we who endure to the end will join Him there.

Don't grow weary in the race of faith. Don't lose heart. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Hymn: [We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ](#)

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