

**Running for Your Life**  
**How to Live out Your Christian Faith**  
Mosaic Rockford - Dave Spooner – June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Intro:**

- I think every one of us likes and wants to win . . . I want you to win as well and so does God.
- This morning I am going to give you the road map to “win” at the race God has called you to run. If you do what we talk about this morning you will get there, you will not wander, or wilt or grow weary but win the race that God has marked out for you and gain the prize He has for all of His “good and faithful servants”.

**Realize you are surrounded**

**Heb 12:1 NIV**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,**

- Those who have given a witness with their lives . . .
  - Look at Heb. 11 . . .
- and those who are bearing witness to our lives . . .
  - You are not alone – and they are cheering us on . . .
- Passing the baton to us
  - We have been given a great legacy – we are on a great team . . .

**Throw off everything**

**Heb 12:1 NIV**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders**

- that hinders . . .
  - These things are not sins but things that hinder us . . . (baggage that slows us down)
    - Video games (Clash Royale), social media (Facebook), sports (fantasy football), TV shows, hobbies, commitments, etc. . . .
    - By giving time to these things I am not giving time to other things that would be better.

**Heb 12:1 NIV**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles,**

- And the sin that so easily entangles . . .
  - Things that hinder us
  - Sin that tangles us / trips us / captures us
    - Pride . . . , anger . . . , lust . . . , greed . . . , jealousy . . . , Lying . . . , undisciplined . . . , lazy . . . greed . . . , etc.
- Throw off – get rid of – confess
  - Fellowship – walk in the light as He is in the light and we will have fellowship with each other
  - Forgiveness – confess to God – 1 John 1:9

### **1 John 1:7-10 ESV**

**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**

- Freedom – confess to each other – James 5

### **James 5:16 ESV**

**Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.**

- Story about Northwestern

### **Run with perseverance**

#### **Heb 12:1 NIV**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

- The point of throwing off is that you can run strong, and fast, and free . . .
- Perseverance – a marathon that will have trials, hardships, sacrifice and pain . . . and it will be worth it all when you hit the finish line and hear “Well done” enter into your reward . . .
- The race marked out for us –
  - Everyone has their own race
    - No one can run yours for you
    - Don’t try to run someone else’s
  - This is the point in the last chapter of the book of John

**John 21:21-22 ESV**

**When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!"**

**Fix your eyes**

**Heb 12:2-3 NIV**

**Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

- “Fix” – focused on one thing
- “On Jesus” – not on any person but on The Person
  - The person who is the author and perfecter
  - Who looked at the joy set before Him . . . we do this for joy and from joy
  - Which gave him strength to endure the cross, and the shame . . .
  - Gain strength from Him . . .
  - So you will not grow weary and lose heart . . . this is what we need

**Questions for the ride home:**

1. What do you need to “throw off” by confession and (re)commitment? (Things that hinder and sins that entangle)
2. What “race” has God commissioned you to run with perseverance?
3. Spend time talking and praying with someone.