

**HEBREWS 12:1-2(NLTSE)** “ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne.”

- We endure by keeping our eyes on Jesus
- Jesus endured by keeping His eyes on the joy that awaited Him. What was this joy?
- This is what Jesus saw from the cross:

1. Jesus saw mankind redeemed to God. Restored back to our original place of an open relationship with God

**ISAIAH 59:2(NLTSE)** It’s your sins that have cut you off from God. Because of your sins, He has turned away and will not listen anymore.

2. Jesus saw His authority given to us

**MATTHEW 28:18-20(NLTSE)** “Jesus came and told his disciples, “ I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”

**JOHN 20:21(NLTSE)** Again he said, “ Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.

3. Jesus saw evil conquered by good

**ROMANS 12:21(NLTSE)** Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

It’s like God saying: “look what you’ve done to my children satan, I’ll show you what my children can do”

4. Jesus saw His specific plans for us, coming to pass. He saw the results of our salvation

**JEREMIAH 29:11(NLTSE)** For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “ They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope

**PHILIPPIANS 2:12(NLTSE)** Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear

- What are some of the things we should be seeing, to keep us motivated to endure hardships?  
Fruit of the Spirit, salvation of unsaved loved ones, changed communities
- Remember, according to Hebrews 12:2, we endure by keeping our eyes on Jesus

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. How do athletes build up endurance, to complete difficult sporting events?
2. How does keeping our focus on Jesus, enable us to overcome difficulties?
3. Is there anything keeping you distracted from focusing on Jesus?