**MEMORIAL RUN 2019: FAITH AND EXPECTATIONS**  2019-11-03

**DANIEL 3:17-18(NLTSE)** “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, your Majesty. But even if He doesn’t, we want to make it clear to you, your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.”

* As people of faith, we rightly have certain expectations, based on faith that we have in the promises of God
* However, our faith is challenged when we don’t see the outcome of our faith as we often expect
* The three Hebrew boys in the passage in Daniel had faith that God would deliver them, but were just as willing to die, even if God didn’t save them.
* We to, should expect God to deliver us from impossible odds, but be willing to lay down our lives, even if He doesn’t
* I like to describe Hebrews chapter 11 as the Bible’s “faith hall of fame” because it tells of people of great faith and the results of lives lived with such great faith.
* In this chapter, the phrase ***“by faith”*** appears 17 times. These believers had great expectations of what God would do and yet, verse 13 says:

**HEBREWS 11:13(NLTSE)** All these people died ***still believing*** what God had promised them. ***They did not receive what was promised***, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were ***foreigners and nomads here on earth***.

* We should be trusting and believing for God’s will to be done here in South Africa, as it is in heaven, BUT, be willing to live through difficulties, even it doesn’t happen as and when we expect.
* From **HEBREWS 11:35-39(NLTSE)**, we learn about those who believed, but still had terrible things happen to them
* The goal for our faith should not be “to get something out of it”
* The goal for our faith should be to become like Jesus
* In becoming like Jesus, we don’t have to go to hell like He did, but we’ll most certainly have to face the forces of hell in this life:

**EPHESIANS 6:12(NLTSE)** For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places

* In scripture, keys are a symbol of power and authority. Jesus took this power and authority away from satan, so that we can have authority over him.

**REVELATION 1:18(NLTSE)** I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave

**ROMANS 16:20(NLTSE)** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Why do you think we get so unsettled when we don’t get what we expect?
2. Why should owe have faith in something, even though God might not grant what we’re believing for?
3. What does it tell us about someone’s heart, if they’re willing to die for their faith?