

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



14. A Call to Persevere

Introduction

When major sporting events take place, like the Olympic Games, thousands attend the event, but millions of others around the world are watching on television. The Christian life is like a sporting event. This is the picture painted for us in Hebrews 12.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-13

- ❖ Who are the witnesses that are referred to in verse 1? How do these witnesses encourage us?
- ❖ What three things are we urged to do in verses 1 and 2?

Share

What are some of the things in your life that hinder you from running the race? How can you 'throw them off'?

- ❖ List the things revealed about Jesus in verses 2 to 4.
- ❖ How can these truths about Jesus help us to persevere in our Christian life? Can you share an experience when you have been strengthened by remembering what Jesus did for you?

The author of the book of Hebrews has been encouraging us not to give up our faith. He reminds us to look at the example of Jesus, who did not give up in the face of great suffering. Then he goes on to show that we should expect difficulties in our lives because God allows these to discipline us.

- ❖ Why should God's discipline be an encouragement to us and why does God discipline us? V5-8, 10-11

Discuss

In what ways does God discipline his children? V7. Also see 1 Corinthians 11:30-32, Deuteronomy 8:3-5. Can you think of a time in your life when God has disciplined you?

- ❖ How should we respond to God's discipline? V7, 9, 12, 13

Conclusion

Probably many of us have experienced discipline from our earthly fathers as we were growing up. It probably wasn't a pleasant experience, although most fathers were trying their best to teach us the right way. As it says in v10 they did as 'they thought best'. There may be some who feel their fathers were unfair and mean, but as we look at our Heavenly Father we can be sure that he truly disciplines us for our good.

God's desire is that we become like Jesus. There is a crowd of witnesses cheering us on, urging us not to give up, but to persevere and let nothing hinder us. It will be worthwhile, there is a great reward ahead. "Keep going," they shout!