

Sequim Community Church
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READY TO THROW IN THE TOWEL?
Hebrews 11:35-12:4

INTRODUCTION:

A. ***"But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection...All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not [and could not] reach perfection without us [and without our message of Good News.] "***

— Hebrews 11:35 & 40

B. ***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.***

— Hebrews 12:1-2

C. As we lean into our discomforts, we should know...

I. HOW TO LEAN IN WHEN WE'RE UNCOMFORTABLE

A. First we need to remember that heaven is cheering for us.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith...

— Hebrews 12:1

B. Second, we must eliminate what doesn't matter.

...let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially sin that so easily trips us up.

— Hebrews 12:1b

- What is weighing on us? What sins?

C. Third, run God's race for us not others' race for us.

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

— Hebrews 12:1c

D. Fourth, focus on Jesus – not our circumstances.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

— Hebrews 12:2

- Jonah: ***"When I had lost all hope I once again turned my thoughts to the Lord."***
— Jonah 2:7

F. Fifth, minimize the pain and maximize the profits.

Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne [in heaven]. — Hebrews 12:2

G. Finally, remember all that Jesus has done for us.

Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people, then you won't become weary and give up.

— Hebrews 12:3

CONCLUSION: