



Looking Unto Jesus

The Author and Finisher of Our Faith






Looking Unto Jesus


- **Run The Race Focused On Jesus**
- **Don't Run Looking Behind You**
- **The Danger of Looking Away**
- **Follow The Example of Jesus**



Run The Race Focused On Jesus

- **Hebrews 12:1-2** ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NKJV)
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Don't Run Looking Behind You

- **Philippians 3:12-14** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (NKJV)
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The Danger of Looking Away

- **We Might Be Puffed Up and Rest Upon Our Laurels**
 - **Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. (NKJV)
- **Or We Might Be Afraid and Paralyzed Into Inaction**
 - **Matthew 14:28-31** And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (NKJV)

Follow The Example of Jesus

- **1 Peter 2:21** “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:” (NKJV)

– So What is the example He leaves us?




The Example He Left Us

- Hebrews 12:2 “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (NKJV)

Can we follow this same pattern?



Take Up Our Cross

- **Matthew 16:24** ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
(NKJV)
 - *But What is Our Cross? Is it a wood beam?*
 - Bear one another's burdens -- Galatians 6:2
 - Preach the gospel of Christ -- Matthew 28:19,20
 - Be an example to others -- Titus 2:7
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Despise The Shame

- **Mark 8:38** "**For whoever is ashamed of Me** and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." (NKJV)

Does the world ridicule and shame us for believing God's word?

Absolutely! But we must not draw back!
(Hebrews 10:39)



Set This Joy Before You

- **Revelation 3:21** "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (NKJV)
 - But we must endure our cross, doing the works he has given us while it is day!
 - And despise the shame, considering as nothing the ridicule of this foolish world!

