

Surrounded By A Great Cloud of Witnesses

**If our fathers in the faith could put the
Kingdom of God first then we can too.**

The Witnesses of Our Faith

- *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ..."* (Hebrews 12:1, NKJV)
- **μάρτυς, MARTUS or MARTUR**
Heb. 12:1, "(a cloud) of witnesses," here of those mentioned in chapter 11, those whose lives and actions testified to the worth and effect of faith, and whose faith received witness in Scripture;
W. Vine, Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Remember These Points

- **They Looked Forward To Going Home**
 - **They Had Tribulations In This World**
 - **Knowing Not Where God Would Lead Them**
-
- *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."*
- (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

They Looked Forward To Going Home

- **Written About The Witnesses**

- *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."* (Hebrews 11:13-16, NKJV)

They Had Tribulations In This World

- *"By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward."* (Hebrews 11:24-26, NKJV)
- *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33, NKJV)
- *Paul... "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."* (Acts 14:22, NKJV)

Knowing Not Where God Would Lead Them

- *"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*
(Hebrews 11:8-10, NKJV)
- *"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."* (Hebrews 11:7, NKJV)

Therefore Let Us Run As Well

- *"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, 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." (Hebrews 12:1-2, NKJV)*

Looking To Jesus

- **We Take Up Our Cross**
 - *"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." (Matthew 16:24, NKJV)*
- **Despise The Shame**
 - *"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God," (2 Timothy 1:8, NKJV)*
- **Sit On The Throne With God**
 - *"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." (Revelation 3:21, NKJV)*