

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

PART ONE

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-11

I. INTRO

- After giving us the “Roll Call of Heroes” in Hebrews 11, the writer moves to a personal challenge for our lives. This is likened unto the “Race of Life or of Faith.” Race began at salvation, continues today in sanctification and one day will end in glorification.

II. WE NEED TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO THIS CHALLENGE | VERSES 1-3

A. RECOGNIZE OUR BURDENSOME WEIGHTS

- **Encumbrances** take away spiritual sensitivity in our hearts. It may be perfectly legitimate, but it takes the edge off our spiritual lives.
 1. It cuts away our hunger to know God better.
 2. It takes away our desire to be obedient to the will and purpose of God.
 3. It holds us back.
 4. It is a weight.
 5. It dissipates our spiritual desires.
- **GREAT TRUTH:** God never removes anything from our lives unless He gives us something better to replace our loss.
- God is not a **taker**. He is a **giver**.

B. RECOGNIZE OUR BESETTING SINS

- **“Easily Ensnares Us”**—It wraps around us like a vine that climbs a tree and wraps itself around it.
- **Proverbs 28:13**, “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

C. RUN WITH PATIENCE

- **“Endurance”**—Reach the goal set before us.
 1. There needs to be an intensity about running.
 2. It requires energy.
 3. We have to set our sights on our goal.
 4. Run with enthusiasm and expectation.
 5. We have a goal to pursue.