

WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

Heroes Help Us Run

Ricky Jenkins
(Abridged)

"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" (Heb. 12:1).

"Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." The Hebrew writer paints the picture of contestants entering an athletic arena. In the stands are not mere spectators, but witnesses. The emphasis is not on people watching the race but on people who have something to say. These Hebrew Christians stood on the brink of spiritual disaster. They were tempted to abandon Christ and return to Judaism. The writer seeks to stir them to perseverance by reminding them that Jesus is greater.

Imagine the scene. A contestant walks into the arena and finds the stands full. These witnesses are not curious observers. They have all run the race. This stadium is filled with people who have done what these Christians are striving to do. What greater occasion could there be for an athlete than to perform before those who have excelled? Hebrews 11 has often been called the Hall of Faith. Hebrews 12 opens with the testimony of those heroes.

We need heroes. Their impact on us is invaluable. Sadly, our culture often tears down its heroes. We drag them from their graves and expose every fault. Then we justify our own failures by comparing ourselves to their weaknesses. Yet they were never perfect people. If perfection is the requirement, there are no heroes left. When we lose our heroes, we lose much of the inspiration that challenges us to higher things. Remember the heroes.

We do not run the race alone. One of the greatest aids we possess is the testimony of those who have gone before us. The witnesses are those who have run, suffered, and won. Their voices call us to something higher.

When we say, "I am depressed," the voice of Jeremiah answers, "I know what it is to be discouraged, but you can make it. I did." When we say, "I feel so alone," Elijah responds, "I know that feeling. I stood there too, but God sustained me."

When we protest, "No one will listen to me," Moses replies, "I thought the same thing, yet God used me."

When we complain, "This hurts," the martyrs nod in understanding. Those who suffered torture and death remind us, "We know pain, but we endured."

When we say, "It costs too much," voices come from those who wandered in deserts, mountains, caves, and dens of the earth. They answer, "We know the cost, but you can make it."

Do we have the courage to whine in the presence of such heroes? We stand before those who endured hardships far greater than ours and remained faithful. Their testimony should strengthen our resolve. Remember the heroes. They can make the difference.

Local congregations have heroes too. Every week we gather with people who are old, sick, hurting, and burdened, yet they come anyway. We see individuals serving God faithfully even when their families offer little encouragement. We meet Christians who continue to persevere despite disappointment, loneliness, and hardship.

Young people provide examples as well. Some choose purity, honesty, and faithfulness in environments where such values are mocked. Their determination challenges the rest of us. How can we excuse indifference when they remain steadfast under pressure?

The heroes around us—both living and departed—encourage us to keep running. They remind us that faithfulness is possible in every circumstance. Look up and see those who have served God through trials, disappointments, and suffering without giving up. They endured. They remained faithful. Their testimony still speaks.

The question is simple: Will I?

Announcements:

Prayer List

- Long-term health issues:
 - Rob Canon
 - Mandy White
- Tanya and Maddie: The daughter and granddaughter of Helga are on the road from Virginia to New Mexico where Tanya will be starting a new job in Portales. Maddie will go back to Virginia on the 9th.
- Doris Fields: Dealing with shingles.
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Lily's Father: Diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Looking to have hip surgery once his health is stable.
- Ray Griffin: Undergoing rehabilitation from a stroke.

Traveling/Away

- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit until the end of the year.
- Hammonds: In Ohio visiting friends.

Morning Worship Assignments

Opening Prayer- Earl Shumaker
Scripture Reading- Julian Munoz
Sermon- Joe Wright
Closing Prayer- Lucio Estrada
Song Leader- Bradley Wright

Evening Worship Assignments

Song Leader- Conner Wright
Closing Prayer- Joe Wright

Key Scripture: "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

-2 Corinthians 12:9



ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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