

**STAYING THE COURSE – 3**  
**JANUARY 26, 2020**

**REVIEW:**

- The measure of one's life, the investments made, fighting, finishing and faithfulness, denying self.
  1. Cloud of witnesses.
  2. Lay aside the weight and sin that beset – persistently threaten us.

**CONTINUE: HEBREWS 12:1-3**

3. Patience: Perseverance – to persist in a state, enterprise or under-taking in spite of counter influences, opposition or discouragement. Paul was beaten, stoned, mistreated and threatened. **JAMES 1:2-4, HEBREWS 6:11-12, HEBREWS 10:35-36,**
4. Race:
  - A. “God’s in control of everything” is one of the most faith destroying lies that Satan has ever told and multitudes believe. God’s not controlling what people do on earth.
  - B. “Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.” Why pray this if it is? What’s the crime rate in heaven? How much poverty, sickness, violence, cruelty, hate, rape, robbery or fighting is there? None!
  - C. Soon there will be no more sorrow, pain, suffering, curse or devil, when God is in control. Until then, it’s up to us to yield to God and not the devil and give God control over our lives.
  - D. **1 PETER 5:8-9** If we give him permission, he will devour us. If we give him access, he will destroy, consume and engulf us!
5. Looking: Fix the eye on Jesus, focus our attention on Jesus, follow His example. Let Him set the pace for the course or our lives. A person on course:
  - Hungry to do God’s will.
  - Governed by “it is written.”
  - Led by the Spirit.
  - Regulated by agape love.
  - Concerned about others welfare.
  - Quick to repent and forgive.
  - Abhors evil, cleaves to what is good.
  - Given to prayer and study of the Word.
  - Obedient in stewardship and all areas of spiritual discipline.
  - Overcomes temptation.
  - Looks for the return of Jesus.
6. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Our faith begins and ends with Him.
  - **GALATIANS 4:22-23** Faith vs flesh – the flesh can get us off our course. Ishmael was a work of the flesh. Isaac was a work of the Spirit. God didn’t authorize what Abraham did with Hagar. What He doesn’t authorize, He’s under no obligation to finish.
7. Joy: A powerful force. It enabled Jesus to endure the cross, and empowers us to overcome temptation. **JAMES 1:2** Command joy, when facing challenging circumstances.
8. Consider Him: So we don’t weary and faint in our minds.
  - **GALATIANS 6:9** Discouragement can get us off course.
  - **ISAIAH 40:28-31** There’s no substitute for waiting on God.
  - Consider these things about Jesus:
    1. Wasn’t deterred by adversity. Lucille Ball was told she couldn’t act.
    2. Didn’t allow impatience to get Him off course. **LUKE 2:52**
    3. Didn’t allow confusion to interfere. **JOHN 4:34**
    4. Didn’t coast on the momentum of past success.
    5. Wasn’t impeded by suffering. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18**