

The Power Of A Single Verse: Hebrews 12:2

As a baby Christian, hanging onto a few single verses was a blessing, especially since I did not yet have comprehensive Bible knowledge. The pastor who was mentoring and discipling me in those formative days encouraged Bible memory right away, and this spiritual discipline helped me, as it still does today, to wipe out carnal and demonic thoughts.

Understanding Hebrews 12:2 in context is a simple matter of observing its natural habitat—what is the passage around this verse talking about? Let's look at the two verses that conclude the "faith chapter" and the transition verse into Chapter 12. Remember, context is king!

Hebrews 11:39-40

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Do you see it? Given that so many faithful saints have gone before us, we can glean encouragement that we are part of the same cloud/crowd, the same household of God (Ephesians 2:19). Many of these saints never received their reward while on earth, but they are most surely enjoying their rewards in heaven right now!

This Holy-Ghost inspired encouragement is what gets us out of bed in the morning, causes us to throw off any and every hindrance to our faith race, helps sharpen our Sword to cut off sin at the root, and energizes us to run the rough terrain ahead.

And how do we finish this race well?

Looking unto Jesus!

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How does the truth found in Hebrews 12:2 speak to your walk with God today?

Hebrews 12:2

(KJV) 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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(NIV) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

One of the myriad reasons we should look unto Jesus in any patch of our walk with God is His comprehensive nature. We can trust that the same Lord Who was there in the beginning of creation (Genesis 1:1), and our physical creation (Psalm 139:13-16) will also be there until our earthly sojourn transitions into heavenly glory. From pioneer to perfecter—that's our Lord. Amen!

Revelation 22:13

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

And what of this joy that helped Jesus scorn the shame of crucifixion and endure the torment of the cross? Well, we know that our joy originates from knowing Jesus:

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

The joy that was the strength of Jesus was found in His destination—finishing what He came to earth to do (John 19:30), and returning to the right hand of His Father in heaven (Hebrews 12:2).

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Now that we are grafted into this Father/Son intimacy via the Holy Ghost within us, how do we activate divine joy in our own lives?

*STUDY POINT: Jot down Scripture references relating to the above question.

So beloved, because Jesus has already accomplished what we could never do—live unto God holy and perfect. We need only look unto Jesus to find God's favour.

Hallelujah!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland