



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Running the Race	SPEAKER	SP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Hebrews Series Revisited	DATE	20 & 21 Apr 2024

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 11 tells us about how living with faith looks like. Hebrews 12 builds on this and tells us about how to develop our faith. SP Chua Seng Lee shared that our faith journey is not a sprint, but a marathon and that we need to persevere in order to finish the race well.

THREE IMPORTANT FAITH CONVICTIONS

SP shared three important faith convictions that we need to keep in mind as we run the race:

1) It is worth it

With reference to Hebrews 12:1, “Therefore since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us ...,” we are told that the race is worth it, because people around us can witness the works of God through the way we run the race. Being a Christian is not just about saying the sinner’s prayer and getting our salvation – it is also the working out of our salvation in our everyday life. We must therefore not let ourselves be distracted and finish the race well. In the Bible, we clearly see the goodness of God, and that Jesus is worthy of all our sacrifice and suffering. As long as we put our faith in God and allow Him to guide us, we will see the goodness of God in our lives.

2) I am determined to do it

Our successes and failures are determined by what we set our hearts on. We therefore cannot expect to run the race well without determination. We are told to “lay aside every encumbrance and sin that entangles us” (Hebrews 12:1). This means that we need to put aside the things that slow us down – an unresolved issue, an uncertain future... or even past successes. This process starts with a confession and an acknowledgement that we need God’s divine assistance to help us to finish the race. We are also told to “run with endurance” (Hebrews 12:1), which means that we are called not only to participate in the race, but to persevere and finish the race well.

3) It is all about Jesus

Finally, we must remember that the race is all about Jesus and fixing our eyes on Him. Hebrews 12:2-3 tells us to “[fix] our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” and to “consider Him”. As we run our faith journey, we must always contemplate Jesus – how He was as a person, His passion, pre-eminence, and perseverance – so that we may grow to be more and more like Him.

Focusing our eyes on earthly treasures may lead us to disappointment, but when we fix our eyes on Jesus, we will “not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:3).

CONCLUSION

As we continue to run this race as full-time Christians, let us not be half-hearted. We need to remain determined as we run and complete the race, with the faith that all sacrifice is worthy. Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, let us also run this race for the later generations, so that the heritage of faithfulness will be passed on.

QUESTIONS

1. Share about someone from the Bible and how that person's faith journey helped you to see/experience God's goodness.

2. What are some encumbrances you face (or faced) in your personal faith journey? How did you overcome them or how do you plan to overcome them so that you can persevere on and finish the race?

3. In what ways do you find yourself most lacking in modelling after Jesus and how can you grow to be more like Him?