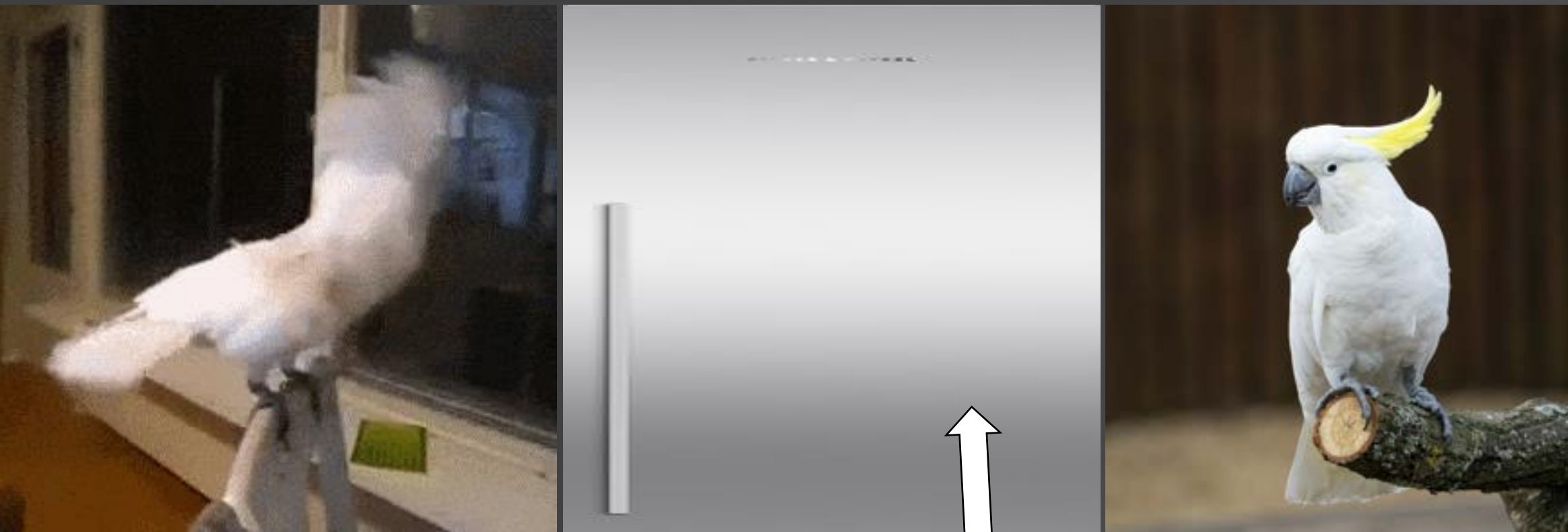


A person is standing on a rocky peak, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The person is wearing a striped shirt and dark pants. The background consists of multiple layers of mountain ridges, creating a sense of depth and scale. The overall tone is dark and atmospheric, with a focus on the silhouette of the person against the lighter, hazy background.

***RUNNING
THE RACE***





"May I ask what did the chicken do?"

*Our **attitude** determines whether
we succeed in life.*

WHY DO WE NEED TO PERSEVERE?

Because of...

- deception,
- distraction, and
- discouragement in life

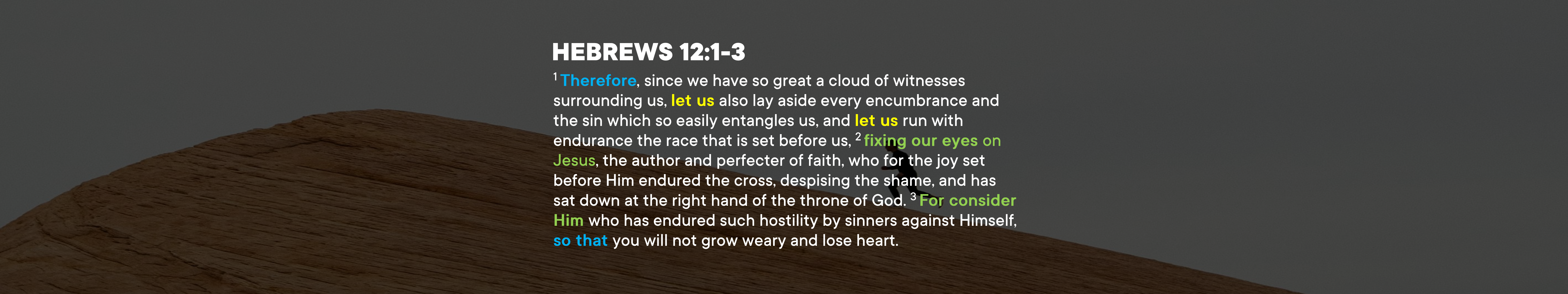


HEBREWS 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

1. *“It is worth it”*
2. *“I am determined to do it”*
3. *“It is all about Jesus”*

RUNNING THE RACE:

“IT IS WORTH IT”

We should remind ourselves that:

1. *“It is worth it”*
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“IT IS WORTH IT”

¹Therefore, since we have **so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us...**

- Who are these witnesses?
- What are they witnessing about?

RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

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HEBREWS 11

Abel (God is my sacrificial lamb)	Moses (God parted my Red Sea)
Noah (God is my righteousness)	Rahab (God remembers those others rejected)
Enoch (God is my companion)	Gideon (God delivered us)
Abraham (God blesses the generations)	Barak (God used my little faith)
Sarah (God healed my barrenness)	Samson (God is faithful)
Isaac (God is my Provider)	Jephthah (God accepted my mistake)
Joseph (God brought me home)	David (God is my eternal King)

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We should remind ourselves that:

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“IT IS WORTH IT”

1. Conquered kingdoms
2. Performed acts of righteousness
3. Obtained promises
4. Shut the mouths of lions
5. Quenched the power of fire
6. Escaped the edge of the sword
7. Weakness made strong
8. Became mighty in war
9. Put foreign armies to flight
10. Received their dead by resurrection

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“IT IS WORTH IT”

1. Tortured
2. Not accepting their release
3. Mocked and scourged
4. Chained and imprisoned
5. Stoned to death
6. Sawn in two
7. Tempted
8. Put to death with the sword
9. Destitute, afflicted & ill-treated
10. Did not receive what was promised

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“IT IS WORTH IT”

We need to have that conviction to have faith in God because He is worthy of all our sacrifices



RUNNING THE RACE:

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We need to have that conviction to have faith in God because He is worthy of all our sacrifices



God saved Gideon from his drug addiction



God saved Angel from the ledge of death



Watch their testimonies here!

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“IT IS WORTH IT”

- We need to have that conviction to have faith in God because He is worthy of all our sacrifices
- If we are half-hearted, we are being distracted



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

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RUNNING THE RACE:

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“I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT”

- Our success or failure is determined by what we set our hearts to
- We cannot expect to run the race well without determination



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

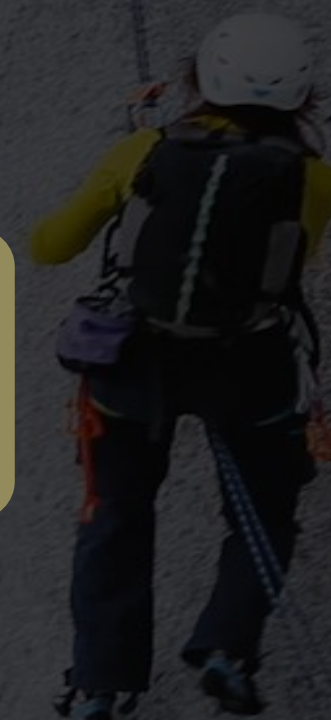
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“I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT”

¹Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also **lay aside every encumbrance and the sin** which so easily entangles us, and let us **run with endurance** the race that is set before us

HOW:

1. Lay aside things that are not of God
2. Run with endurance



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

1. *“It is worth it”*
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Divine Partnership:
Without Man, God will not,
Without God, Man cannot.

“I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT”

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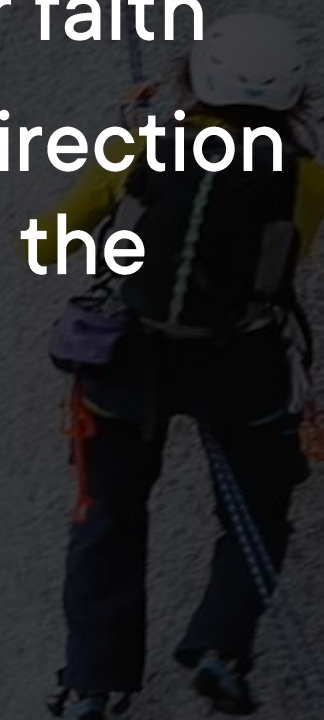
"I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT"

1

**LAY ASIDE EVERY
ENCUMBRANCE
AND SIN THAT
ENTANGLES US**

- Let go of everything that hinders us from fully living out our faith
- Resolve your past, have direction for the present, and leave the future in God's hands

*"I may not know what tomorrow holds,
but I know Who holds my tomorrow."*



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

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POSSIBLE ENCUMBRANCES

1. Unhealed hurts
2. Unmet needs
3. Unresolved issues
4. Certain relationships
i.e. unhealthy relationships
5. Certain activities
6. Worries and anxieties of life
7. Wrongs
8. Lifestyle choices
9. Others



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“I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT”

1

**LAY ASIDE EVERY
ENCUMBRANCE
AND SIN THAT
ENTANGLES US**

- We should not tolerate any kind of sin – be it subtle or obvious
- Sin starts with carnal thinking > sinful choices > sinful habits > sinful bondages and strongholds



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

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EXAMPLES OF SINS

1. Lust of the flesh
2. Lust of the eye
3. Pride
4. Gossip
5. Critical spirit
6. Idolatry
7. Lack of faith
8. Anger
9. Others



POSSIBLE ENCUMBRANCES

1. Unhealed hurts
2. Unmet needs
3. Unresolved issues
4. Certain relationships
i.e. soul ties
5. Certain activities
6. Worries and anxieties of life
7. Wrongs
8. Lifestyle choices
9. Others

PRAYER FOR FREEDOM/DELIVERANCE

Principles according to James 4:6-10 and 1 Peter 5:5-9

1. **Confess** your struggles or sins of participating/owning these issues
2. Apply the Blood of Christ to **cleanse** you and **cover** the ground given.
3. **Get rid of /remove / destroy** those items if you have them.
4. **Submit to Jesus as LORD** over your life.
5. **Resist** the Devil
6. **Draw near** to God
7. Do **not** be double-minded
8. Live in **total obedience and dependence** on God.

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PRAYER FOR FREEDOM/DELIVERANCE

Dear Lord Jesus,

1. I **confess** my struggles/sins of participating in _____ or owning _____ *(Name the specific items you identified in the checklist)*. I know that it was evil and offensive in Your sight and I ask for Your **forgiveness**.
2. I apply the precious blood of Christ to **cleanse** me from all defilement as a result of my involvement in these sins. I take the blood of Christ to **cover** and **close** all grounds given to the evil one because of these sins.
3. I will **get rid of, remove and destroy** all these spiritually unclean things from my life and possessions.
4. Jesus, I declare You are Lord of my life - spirit, soul and body.

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PRAYER FOR FREEDOM/DELIVERANCE

5. In Jesus' Name, I rebuke every unclean spirit and command you to get out of my life. You have no more hold over me. I am forgiven, cleansed and covered by the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' Name, out of my life! Go!
6. Lord I thank You for all You have done for me through Your death and resurrection. I praise You for the freedom I have as I walk in Your truth.
7. Help me Lord, to set You always before me so that I will not be easily shaken.
8. Lord, give me the strength to fully obey You always. I commit my entire life to live in total dependency on You, my God, my Saviour, and my Deliverer! In Jesus Name! Amen!

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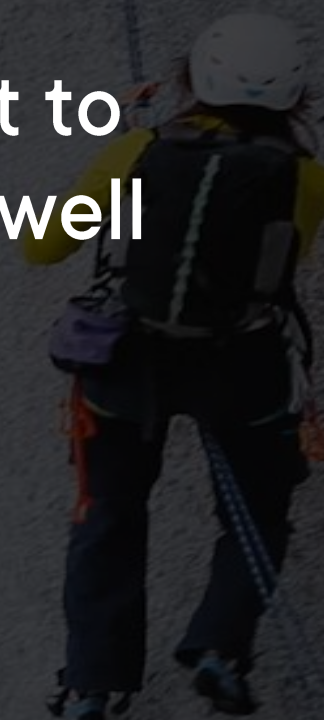
1. “It is worth it”
2. “I am determined to do it”
3. “It is all about Jesus”

“I AM DETERMINED TO DO IT”

2

**RUN WITH
ENDURANCE**

- Run knowing that this is a long journey, not a sprint
- We are called to not only participate in the race, but to give our best and finish it well



RUNNING THE RACE:

We should remind ourselves that:

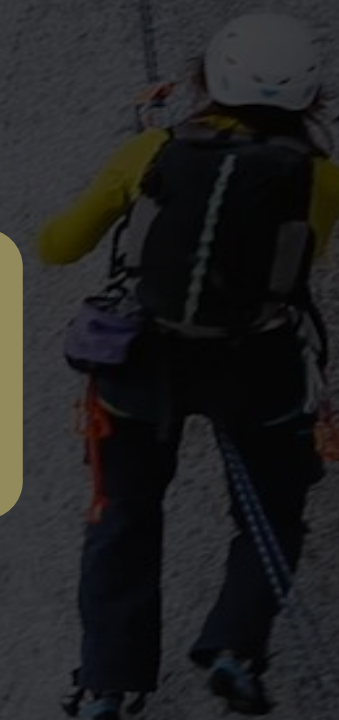
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1 Cor 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

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“IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS”

² **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For **consider Him** who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



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3. ***“It is all about Jesus”***

“IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS”

Fix your eyes on Jesus... Consider Jesus

- Jesus as a person – He is the author and perfecter of our faith
- Jesus’ passion – for the joy set before Him
- Jesus’ pre-eminence – sat down at the right hand of God
- Jesus’ perseverance – endured hostility



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Jesus must be our main focus

RUNNING THE RACE:

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2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

“IT IS ALL ABOUT JESUS”

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*Jesus must be our **main focus***

Jesus must be our main focus



Our Midweek Heroes

Jesus must be our main focus

Surrounded by so great
A cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race
Not only for the prize,
But as those who've gone before us.
Let us leave to those behind us,
The heritage of faithfulness
Passed on thru godly lives.



Our Midweek Heroes

Jesus everything I count as loss
To know you and be known as yours
To share with you in your suffering
To be with you in glory

Jesus everything I count as loss
To know you and be known as yours
To share with you in your suffering
To be with you in glory

Come and be my exceedingly great reward
You're the treasure that I would give my whole life for
What would it profit me to gain the world but lose my soul?
I know my life is not my own

Jesus let my days be lived for you
The vapor of this life be given too
Set this heart toward eternity
To be with you in glory

Come and be my exceedingly great reward
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What would it profit me to gain the world but lose my soul?
I know my life is not my own

I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back
The cross before me, the world behind me
No turning back, no turning back
Though none go with me still I will follow
No turning back, no turning back
My cross I'll carry 'til I see Jesus
No turning back, no turning back

Come and be my exceedingly great reward
You're the treasure that I would give my whole life for
What would it profit me to gain the world but lose my soul?
I know my life is not my own x2

And what would it profit me to gain the world but lose my soul?
I know my life is not my own