

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,

**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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:1-2)

Today, find ourselves in Heb 12:2

- Let's read v.1-2 (one sentence)
- Actually our third week in looking at this single sentence
- So powerful & rich

A Real Christian is the Ultimate Survivor

- Our culture is fascinated with (TV)

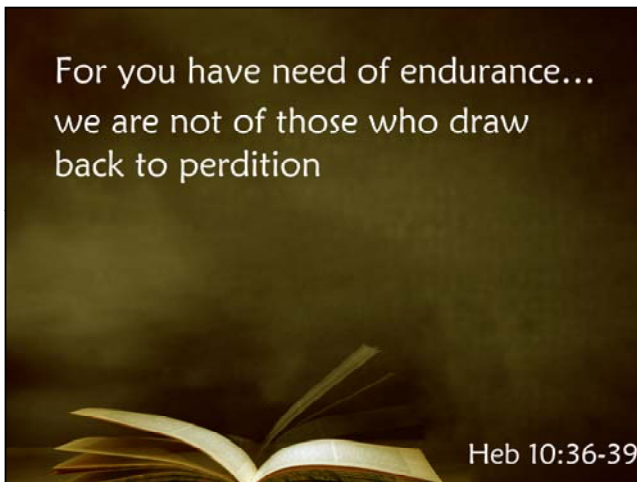
Notice key & central verb phrase

- Run with endurance.... Looking unto Jesus who endured

Endurance...is the theme

- Not only of this sentence
- ...but much of chapter
- ...began, back in Heb 10:36

1



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You need endurance

You have need of endurance

- Your enduring needs strengthening

Opposite- drawing back to hell

Want you to see—is a serious matter

2

But he who endures to the end shall be saved.



Matthew 24:13

Jesus said the same...need it for salvation

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3

For you **have need** of endurance...

- 1) Endure by Seeing Examples 12:1a
- 2) Endure by Seeing the Race 12:1b
- 3) Endure by Seeing Jesus 12:2



Heb 10:36-39

Issue is key...Need is real

- If said, car needed oil, or I need a drink of water – understand
- Empty unless the need is met

How is this “need” met in you?

- This what Heb 12 tell us
- Tells us how this need is met

1) By Examples – Heb 11

- Examples of others can, and should strengthen our endurance

2) By Seeing the Race

- Understanding in a race
- Intentionally running without hindrances of weights and sin

3) By Seeing Jesus...looking unto

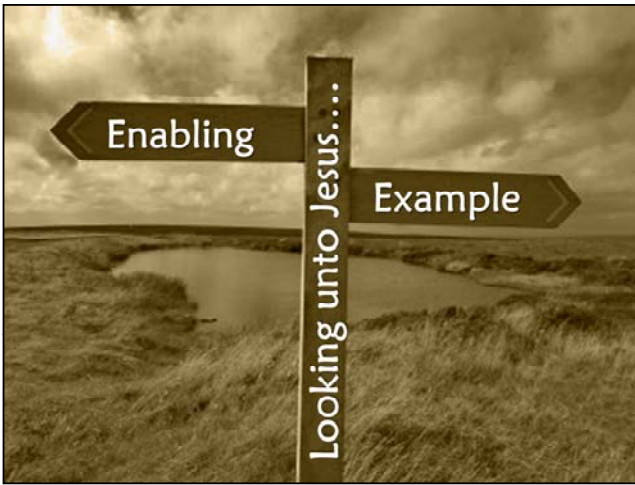
- Problem...debate what means

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What is this looking to Jesus

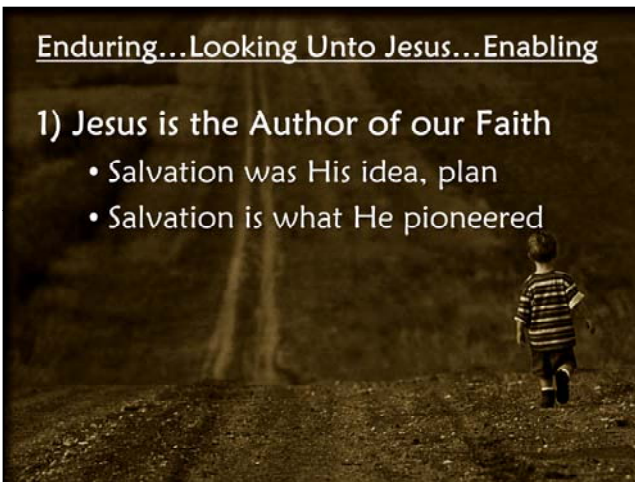
- Is debate and disagreement over
- There are two main possibilities

**Is Looking the Enabling of Jesus?
Or is it the Example of Jesus?**

- Students of scripture are divided
- Some divided strongly
- Want you to know...if read, hear

Answer...it is wonderfully both!

- Part of the richness of this verse
- So much so...going to take two weeks on verse 2
- 1st look at Jesus enabling
- 2nd look at Jesus example
- I firmly believe it is both...and that we need both



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Enduring...thru Jesus Enabling

- Calls us to look to Jesus...

1) Jesus is the Author of faith

Salvation...is His idea, plan

- If said Author of book...see?
- What we are called to endure in, it is His work, plan

Salvation is what He pioneered

- This word – archelos – more than one who has idea
- One who makes happen, leads
- Notice how used in Heb 3...

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the **Captain** of their salvation perfect through sufferings.



Hebrews 2:10

Captain

- Picture is that of a captain leading his troops into battle
- Going before them
- Paving...making a way for

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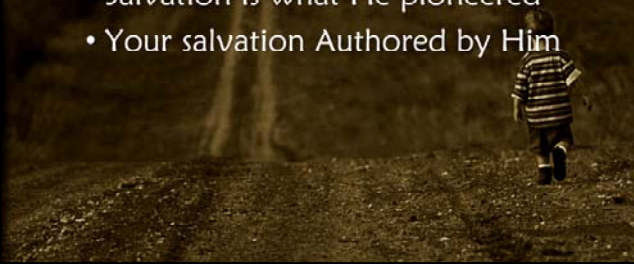
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7

Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith

- Salvation was His idea, plan
- Salvation is what He pioneered
- Your salvation Authored by Him



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,

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1) Jesus is Author of Faith

Your salvation Authored by Him

- Idea is more than generic
- Personal...to you specifically
- Christian...hear it this way

8

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love



Ephesians 1:4

Christian, God picked you before time began.

Jesus authored your salvation, before Genesis 1:1

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9

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.



Revelation 13:8

The world will accept and worship the antichrist...who is coming. The world will embrace him.

Why...their names were not written in the Lamb's book of life

Turning around – Christian, your name has been written in His book. He authored Your name there

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10

Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.

And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.



Acts 13:48

Notice...true, those who are saved, are the ones appointed, authored by Jesus

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11

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...



John 15:16

Jesus told His disciples this...us

Jim, you say, this is sounding very Calvinistic. (sovereign)

- Are you a Calvinist, Jim?
- No, I am not a Calvinist, but neither am I an Arminianist. I am a Biblicist – believe what Bible says

To you who are Calvinist—love you

- I believe in sovereign election as much as you do. Totally
- Don't explain away responsibility

To you who are Arminianist—love you

- I believe in responsibility—I do
- Don't explain away clear passages
- Believe it....receive it

Beauty of being a Biblicist

- Don't explain God's word away
- Fully enjoy both views....

Call you to see-Jesus authored your salvation

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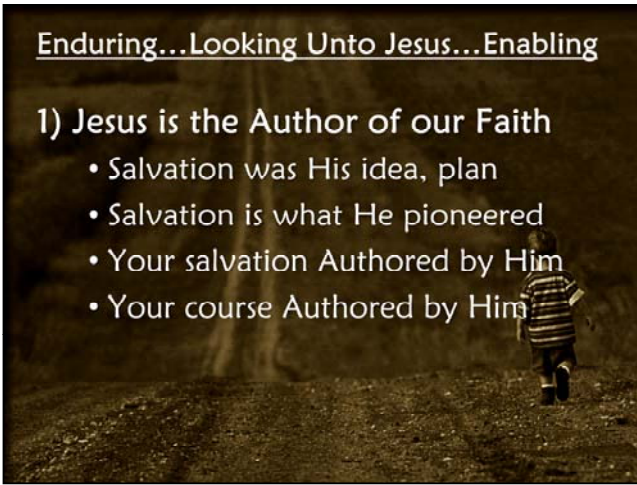
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12

1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith

- Salvation was His idea, plan
- Salvation is what He pioneered
- Your salvation Authored by Him
- Your course Authored by Him



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1) Jesus is Author of our Faith

Your course Authored by Him

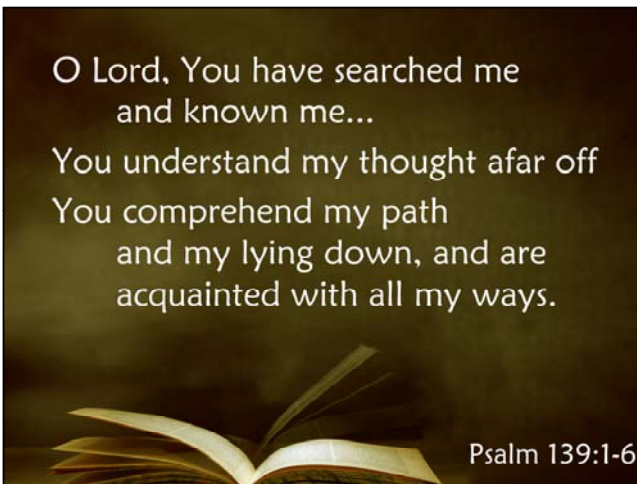
- Not just that your soul saved
- End of v.1 – course laid before
- God has designed the course that He has for you...
- If you understand this...truly helps with endurance....

13

O Lord, You have searched me
and known me...

You understand my thought afar off

You comprehend my path
and my lying down, and are
acquainted with all my ways.



Psalm 139:1-6

God knows everything about you

- Not a growing learning-known

God sees your whole path

- Picture your life as a linear line
- He sees beginning..all the way to the end. He knows whole path

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14

You have hedged me
behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
Such knowledge
is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.

Psalm 139:1-6

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He is leading life to His end

- not nearly as “free” as think
- Like a mouse in a maze – God blocking paths, leading us

Doesn't mean forcing, nor that we are exactly in His will now

- Think of Jonah as case study
- Makes dumb decisions, God continually works to get him back on path...on course

God is personally involved.

Too much...impossible to grasp

15

For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus
for good works,
which God prepared beforehand
that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

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,

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Notice word “workmanship”

- Greek Poema – masterpiece
- Like artist with canvas, statue

Made you for a purpose

- Has good works for you to do

These good works...God has prepared them for you

- Your course – authored by God, by Jesus

16

Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.

John 19:10-11

Think how Jesus showed this in His life

Pilate thought he was in control

Jesus tells him that he is not God is... God is the author

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17

Enduring... Looking Unto Jesus... Enabling

1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith

- Salvation was His idea, plan
- Salvation is what He pioneered
- Your salvation Authored by Him
- Your course Authored by Him

God is the Author of salvation, our salvation... our course... wow

Doesn't mean again – you are on course... but can be.

Jesus is the compass... look to Him, and He will get you back

- more on that in a moment

Key here is that He is author

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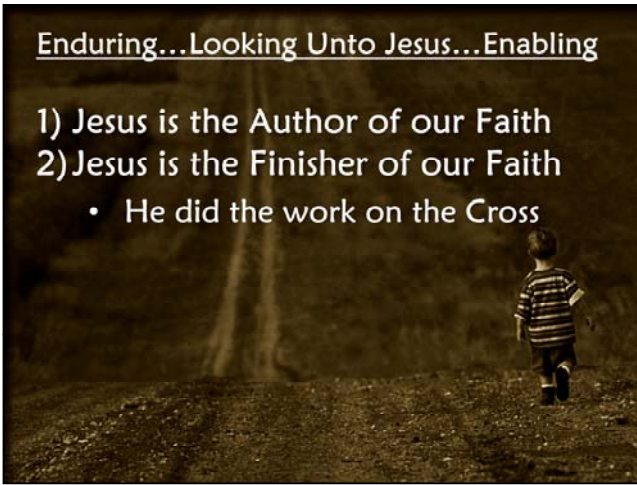
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Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
 - He did the work on the Cross



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2) Jesus is Finisher of our Faith

- word- finish, complete, effect

He finished the word..on the Cross

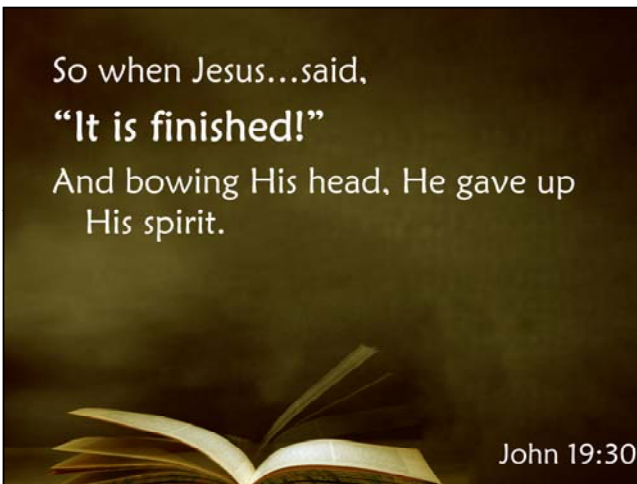
- Entire price, effort – He did

19

So when Jesus...said,

“It is finished!”

And bowing His head, He gave up
His spirit.



John 19:30

Notice the word “it is Finished”

- Same Greek word in Heb 12:2
- Finished...done...forever
- Not needing to be repeated or added to

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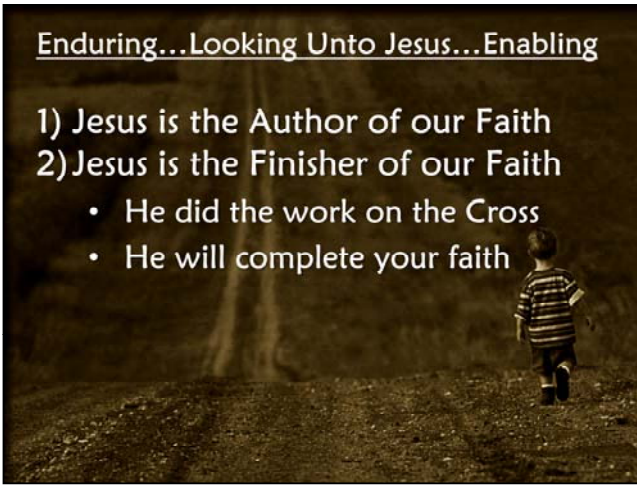
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Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
 - He did the work on the Cross
 - He will complete your faith



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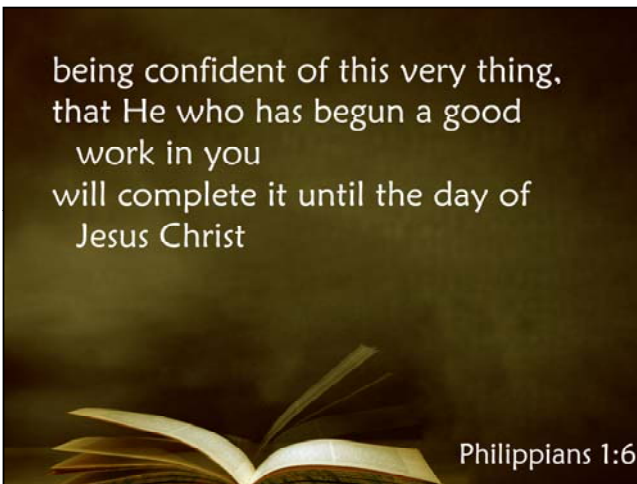
2) Jesus is Finisher of our Faith

He will complete your faith

- Christian, again, personal to you
- He started, authored your salvation, and He will finish

21

being confident of this very thing,
that He who has begun a good
work in you
will complete it until the day of
Jesus Christ



Philippians 1:6

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We can have this confidence

He began work in us...

He will complete it

- He never gives us, quits, or throws in the towel
- Today, Christian, did you wonder if God was about to call it quits in your life? He is not.

22

The Lord will perfect that which concerns me;
Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.



Psalms 138:8

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Notice words – God will perfect
Yet, it is a prayer, too...

Here again the whole Calvinist and Arminianist thing comes again

- Resting in God's faithful, unrelenting work doesn't, shouldn't create laziness, pride

Called to rest in His perfecting work, yet....not to "let go and let God"

- Called to press on...

work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,*

for it is God who works in you

*used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfill his duty.

– Strong's Dictionary



Phil 2:12-13

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Called to work out our salvation with fear and trembling

Notice – is a fear that causes us to press ahead, fearing failure...

Yet...in balance – God is working

Want you to see – sovereignty and responsibility go hand in hand

Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith

- He did the work on the Cross
- He will complete your faith
- He is working today in you



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25

2) Jesus is Finisher of our Faith

Christian...this means God is working in you.

He is Author and Finisher

He is the Alpha and Omega

He is the Beginning and the end

Idea is in between too.

Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
- 3) We need to be Looking unto Jesus

- A Looking of Dependence



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3) We need to look w/Dependence

What I want you to clearly understand is that often God uses this word “looking” as more than just observation

Some hold all this verse is saying is that Jesus is best example.

But looking...is more, it is dependence, drawing life from

Then the Lord said to Moses,
"Make a fiery serpent, and set it on
a pole; and it shall be that everyone
who is bitten, when he looks at it,
shall live."



Numbers 21:8

Here is the passage in Numbers

See it...bitten, dying...remedy, look.
Looking did something...

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27

And as Moses lifted up the serpent
in the wilderness, even so must
the Son of Man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal
life.



John 3:14-15

Look, at Jesus, on Cross, receive life
from Him

So looking saves...but it is more yet
still....

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cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the
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28

“Look to Me, and be saved,
All you ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no
other.



Isaiah 45:22

Many of you here today, Christians
This is something you have done

Some of you are not...call you today
– look to Him, be saved

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29

Behold, as the eyes of servants look
to the hand of their masters, As
the eyes of a maid to the hand of
her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our
God, Until He has mercy on us.



Psalms 123:2

Looking speaks of dependence
Speaks of submission, and waiting
for help, guidance, provision

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30

Woe to those who go down to
Egypt for help,
And rely on horses, Who trust in
chariots because they are many,
And in horsemen because they are
very strong,
But who do not look to the Holy
One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord!

Isaiah 31:1

Folly is those who look other places

Notice the word looking...

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31

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 by the Spirit of the
Lord.

2Cor 3:18

As we look to Jesus...we are
changed...

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32

Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
- 3) We need to be Looking unto Jesus

- A Looking of Dependence
- A Looking away from
- A Looking UNTO Jesus



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3) We need to look w/Dependence

So this is a look of dependence... Yet is more...

Greek aphorao – two Greek words

Apo – from

horo – to look

Lit – look away from everything else....and look to Jesus



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,

**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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb 12:1-2)

Wonderful scene – filled with thoughts for today.

Jesus sent into the storm-author
Jesus met them in the storm

Peter walked on water

When saw waves...began sinking
Jesus gently rebukes

Need was, is – to see Jesus, not the waves. Not that we are ignorant of the waves, but look at with Jesus

Enduring...Looking Unto Jesus...Enabling

- 1) Jesus is the Author of our Faith
- 2) Jesus is the Finisher of our Faith
- 3) We need to be Looking unto Jesus

Look without and be oppressed
Look within and be depressed
Look at Him and find rest

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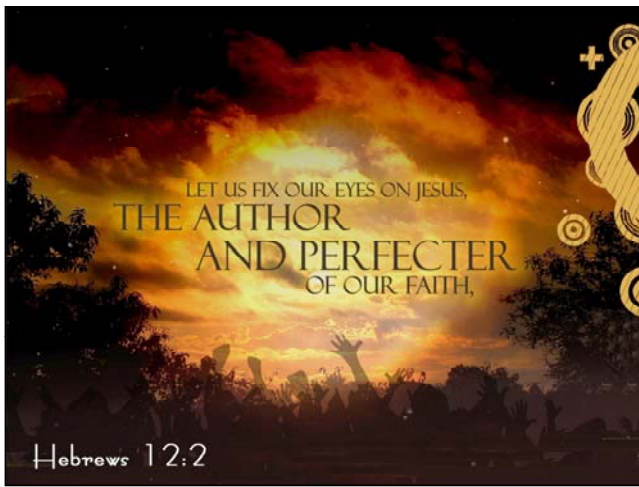
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