

Hebrews 12 New International Version (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing 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. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Another superb passage from the writer to the Hebrews.

I often find it encouraging to look back over my lifetime and see who the saints of God are that have helped me in my spiritual journey. Some of them are Sunday School teachers and Boys' Brigade leaders; my parents; ministers at various stages of my journey. All of them part of that great cloud of witnesses.

Then I think too of the stories of the Churches that I have been privileged to be a part of over my lifetime – another great cloud of witnesses, lay people and ordained.

I wonder who would be part of that great cloud of witnesses for you? Perhaps you could pause for a moment and give thanks to God for those who brought you to faith and those who nurtured you in the faith.

Then I remember the enormous privilege that there will be people today for whom I am part of that great cloud of witnesses and that this is true for each and every one of us.

The letter to the Hebrews is a great encouragement to Christian Discipleship. Its an encouragement to be continually looking ahead, running the race and fixing our eyes on Jesus. Not a bad thing to be doing during this period of crisis for the whole world.

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