

The background is a complex, abstract composition of dark, moody colors. It features broad, diagonal strokes of deep purple and indigo, interspersed with thinner, more vibrant streaks of teal and gold. The overall texture is grainy and painterly, with a sense of depth and movement. The lighting is soft, creating a subtle gradient across the frame.

THE RACE

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

HEBREWS 12:1-2 NLT

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HEBREWS 12:1-2 NLT

WEIGHTS CAN BE ANYTHING THAT SUBTLY
COMPETE WITH OUR DEVOTION TO CHRIST,
OR THAT SLOWS DOWN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.

SOMETIMES THE HEAVIEST WEIGHTS IN OUR LIVES
COME FROM NOT KNOWING HOW TO DEAL
WITH PAST OR PRESENT PAIN.

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HEBREWS 12:1-2 NLT

A GOOD GIFT BECOMES
AN IDOL WHEN

It rivals God for our love or trust

It defines our identity

It dominates our thoughts and emotions

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HEBREWS 12:1-2 NLT

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28-30 NIV

WHAT DO I FEAR
LOSING THE MOST?

WHAT DO I RUN
TO FOR COMFORT?

WHAT MAKES ME FEEL
JUSTIFIED OR CONDEMNED?

WHAT DO I VALUE IN MY LIFE THAT
I AM WILLING TO COMPROMISE FOR?

AS WE ENTER THIS NEW YEAR,
WHAT KIND OF WEIGHTS AND
BURDENS ARE YOU CARRYING?

EXAMINE
WHAT “WEIGHTS” ARE
SLOWING YOU DOWN.

EXAMINE WHAT "WEIGHTS"
ARE SLOWING YOU DOWN.

I

FIX YOUR FOCUS ON JESUS,
NOT CIRCUMSTANCES.

WE RUN THE RACE OF FAITH BY
LOCKING OUR EYES ON JESUS.