

THE CLOUD
November 3, 2019

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Hebrews 11:32-34; 12:1-3

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. What Christians from your own life experience do you consider part of your great cloud of witnesses? Why?
3. When the going gets tough, who or what gives you strength to carry on?
4. What stories or characters from scripture are your favorite? Why?
5. The early Christians confronted great challenges as a minority religion in the ancient world. Christianity is no longer a minority religion. What challenges face Christians today that heroes of faith might inspire us to confront?

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