

April 2, 2017

“Connecting with God gives you the capacity to win the race.”

Hebrews 12:1 – 3 (MSG)

¹⁻³ Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

- Learn how to connect with God and have a relationship with God that gives you the capacity and power to deal with every problem and overcome it.
- The root of every problem is relational.
- Being connected to God, you have the strength and stamina to get through every problem and difficult circumstance.
- When you want to give up, plow through and connect with God.
- Being “with” God and “in” God is having a connection with God.
- Connecting with God gives you the capacity to win the race.
- Have a vision, goal and a dream! If you don’t have a vision for the future, you will give up on tomorrow.
- There is no future without the cross and crucifixion of Christ.

3 Reasons Why Jesus Went To The Cross:

1. **Pay for our sin.**
 - The penalty of sin is death and separation from God for eternity.
2. **Power for now.**
 - Know God and the power of His resurrection.
 - Power to get through every problem and struggle.

Philippians 3: 10 (KJV)

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

3. Place for our future.

- Hope is given for the future.

Luke 23:33 – 34 (KJV)

³³ And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

- To overcome hurts, habits, guilt and bitterness you must decide to forgive.
- The forgiven should forgive. Christ has forgiven us, so we must forgive others.
- Forgiveness releases power in your life.
- The greatest gift is to forgive!

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you connect with God daily?
2. What are the three reasons why Jesus went to the cross?

Resources:

If you would like to look at “**How To Connect With God**” sermon series in more depth, Church On The Rock bookstore has excellent resources available.

