**Becoming Champions of Faith: Commitment**
**Hebrews 11:39-12:4**
**August 4, 2024**
**Dr. Jonathan Lovelady**

**Hebrews 11:39-12:4** These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, [40] since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. 12:1 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, [2] fixing 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. [3] Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. [4] In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (NIV)

## Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ with commitment

_____ support: This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses…. So let us come boldly to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need. Hebrews 4:15a-16 (TLB)

_____ of sacrifice: By faith, Abraham lived as a stranger in the land of promise, as a foreign nomad living in a tent…. He did this because he lived in expectation of a greater city whose designer and builder is God! Hebrews 11: 9-10 (JOT)

2. _____ choices for stronger commitment

_____ connection: Since we are surrounded by a huge crowd of those who testified with their very lives that God is real, listen as their voices cheer us on to greater victory! Suit up, and saddle up! Strip off the things that bog you down, or you know that will trip you up! Hebrews 12:1 (JOT)

_____ a greater joy: And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 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. Hebrews 12:1b-2 (NLT)

_____ of strength: 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! Hebrews 12:3 (MSG)

3. _____ strong in a shaking world

_____ obedience: "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life…. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. Matthew 7:24-25 (MSG)

## Spiritual Action Step:

**Are you being drawn into the quicksand of our world? Or into the darkness of your own brokenness? Do you long to find a greater and enduring joy?** Jesus said: *I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! (John 15:11, NLT.)* The journey to joy begins by realizing you are headed in the wrong direction. Choose the narrow road that will lead you to eternal life and everlasting joy! Accept the grace God wants to share with you in Jesus Christ by asking for forgiveness and acknowledging that Jesus is Lord of your life. This week, read Isaiah 12 and John 15 to allow the Holy Spirit to encourage your heart toward greater commitment!

*Translations: NIV: New International Version; TLB: The Living Bible; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; NLT: New Living Translation; MSG: The Message.*