

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ  
A Disciplined Faith Endures  
Hebrews 12:1-11

Our culture likes to be entertained. We like to watch artists and athletes perform. We marvel at how easy they make their profession look. We often dream about what it would be like to be like them in what they do. Much of what they do comes naturally. But even natural, raw talent must be cultivated if it is going to be used to entertain the masses. We see the performance. We don't see the discipline and the work it takes to get there.

1. Jesus is the author of our faith.
2. Jesus is the finisher of our faith.
3. Jesus is the ethic of our faith.

The Christian experience is a lifelong race that requires endurance, but we don't have to run the faith race alone. By faith we become willing to run. By faith, God enables us to run. Are we content to watch others run this race? Are we content to dream about the life and the joy and the abundance that others experience through faith? We might not be able to compete for audiences of thousands, but the only race that matters is the race we run for an audience of one.

For further consideration:

Why is comparing the Christian life to a race such an apt analogy both for the author's audience and for Christians today? How does that analogy apply to your life? Why does the author tell us to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us? What effects do sin and hindrances have on our spiritual races? How do they affect our endurance? What do you think faithfulness looks like? How does your view of faithfulness compare to that of those who have gone before us? What is the goal and finish line of the Christian race? What did Christ receive for His endurance? What is the proper Christian response to hardship, suffering, and discipline?