

A Championship Team (3)

by Wayne Goff

continued from page 304503

admonished again in 12:1 *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with **endurance** the race that is set before us.”* The “great cloud of witnesses” are the greatest winners of all time, and they are enshrined in God’s eternal Hall of Faith (Heb. 11)! The writer is telling us to *look carefully* to the lives of the great faithful ones of the past — Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, and many others. None of them were perfect, but all of them **endured** through faith the various trials and tribulations of their lives. We can do the same if we will believe, trust and obey!

It is easy to quit, but “quitters never win and winners never quit!” As Paul wrote in Galatians 6:9 *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

Sadly, **endurance** is the very quality those who have fallen away from the Faith lack. Their weak faith cannot see the eternal goal well enough. Their personal discipline is lacking. Their determination to keep on keeping on and pressing forward to the prize is missing (Phil. 3:13-14). The Devil greedily looks for those souls whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8), and they become his prey.

God said that *“the Day will declare it”* (1 Cor. 3:13). That is the Day of Trial which every Christian must face and overcome if he is to obtain the prize. The trial is likened to a “fire” and it will consume those whose faith is comprised of wood, hay or straw (1 Cor. 3:12). But for those whose faith has been developed, matured and strengthened so that they are like “gold, silver, precious stones,” their faith will last even in the fiery trials of this life. Each one of us makes the choice of whether or not to endure and that ultimate decision is made up of all the little decisions we make every day. So dear reader, run so that you may obtain the prize!

304504