Ring of Truth daily devotion

Ring of Truth provides 366 daily 'proofs' that the Bible is consistent throughout from Genesis to Revelation and relevant for our lives today!

5 December

Hebrews 12:1-3

"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. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the Cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the Throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

Keep your eyes on the Goal. We are not alone.

"He is not the God of the dead but of the living" - said Jesus (Matthew 22:32). All the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac and Jacob still live - and so do all the righteous. When Jesus was transfigured - He spoke with both Elijah and Moses. They were not apparitions - they were not 're-incarnated' - they were themselves (see Matthew 17). It's a 'Ring of Truth'! Here we have the continuation of the theme.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

The rest of Chapter 11 is a testimonial to many of the Old Testament heroes, both men and women who against all the odds and regardless of their circumstances chose to believe in God. These people still stand as ***"a great cloud"*** of encouragement for us all.

We are not unique - we are not the only ones to face adversity, strife, pressure, opposition and persecution - however bad or seemingly fatal - and since the writing of the Scriptures there have been many more. Indeed, it is estimated that in the last century there have been more Christian martyrs than ever before.

Since that is the case, and since they have each reaped an eternal, unfading, inexhaustible reward, let us become like them. Let's stop playing at Christianity. Let's stop treating it as an optional add-on to our 'real' self and life. Let's get to grips with what God wants - not what we want. Let's find out what His will is for our lives and then live it to the full, no matter what the cost may be or the difficulties we may have to face.

Is your Christian faith worth dying for? Because if it isn't - it is not authentic Christianity. Don't take this lightly or the wrong way but for some of us, we would rather 'die' for Jesus than 'live' for Him. It's quicker and less embarrassing. But if you can't live for Him, are you really sure you would die for Him? Is it not more likely that you, like the disciples, would end up denying Him - or running away? (see Mark 14:50 & Luke 22)

Listen, it doesn't matter how hard your life will be if you are "Sold Out For Jesus" - the rewards are both eternal and out of this world. We are only passing through here - the true Reality is everlasting life with Christ after this world is over. Don't be like Esau who disqualified himself by trading his birthright for a 'mug of stew' (see Genesis 25:29-34).

Keep your eyes steadfastly glued on Jesus. He endured more than we will ever be asked to endure, and won.

Why? Because His eyes were fixed on Victory.

Don't let some little skirmishes deflect you from your final victory.

He won so that you can too.

Hold on - Go for Victory.