

**“Jesus the Faith Builder”  
July 15, 2012**

*“If you would make the greatest success of your life, try to discover what God is doing in your time, and fling yourself into the accomplishment of His will and purpose”. -Arthur Wallis*

**PROP- Jesus is filling us with FAITH—convincing proof that we can confidently trust Him—so that we can FULFILL His purpose for us. He does this by providing:**

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

**1. CONVINCING PROOF**

**(Heb. 11) The Bible is filled with example after example of real people who:**

- **Heard from God**
- **Took His word deep into their hearts**
- **Saw the fulfillment of what He had promised them**
- **Despite challenges, they kept trusting until...**
  - **They saw the promise fulfilled in their day...**
  - **Or they passed on a faith-filled legacy to the next generation**

**(v. 1) “(When you are tempted to get discouraged and give up) remember the many examples that are *piled high and lying all around us* of people who do not regret trusting God” (*Lit- stacked to “the clouds”—the highest seats in the stadium bleachers*)**

*(i.e., Thomas receiving convincing proof (w/o judgment)- John 20:27; so believed he took the Gospel to western and eastern coast of India)*

**2. A NEW ENVIRONMENT**

**(v. 1) “the sin that so easily entangles” (Lit- *“the environment that so comfortably envelopes you”*) [Remorse, repentance, hating sin]**

“I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.” – William Booth (1829-1916)

**“Lay aside”- *to easily cast off (passive tense—receiving help)***

**NOTE: It’s easier to get free than to be entangled.**

**(Capacity to walk away from destructive relationships and to “*remove yourself far from*” hindering mindsets) (*i.e., “skunk” coat*) (Jude 23)**

### 3. A RISK-TAKING BOLDNESS

(v. 2) **“Looking to Jesus”- *the capacity to focus in an entirely new direction (as much about turning away from as turning toward)***

**“Author”- *a pioneer blazing a new trail; a captain leading us into certain victory***

**“Finisher”- *able to bring to completion; make fully mature; fulfill (“fill full”)*  
Jesus has pioneered and is filling us full with His quality of faith!**

- Every born-again believer has the DNA of Christ
- It’s time to realize how “born-again” we really are!
- Within the heart of every believer is the appetite for the impossible
- He will help us overcome our “unbelief” (Mark 9:24) (*apistia- “weakness of faith”) (Different from “apistos”- refusal to believe)*

### RESPONSE

#### 1. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus

- Unless the compass points north, every other direction is skewed
- The “lifelong gaze of the soul—at the glory of the Son of God. This is the highest calling of His bride.” –Mike Bickle

“Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.” (Psalm 34:5)

#### 2. Turn from disappointment

- “Unresolved disappointments have had far more lasting effects on people than bad teaching.” –Bill Johnson
- We can either “pile high” disappointing memories OR testimonies of His faithfulness (Hebrews 12:1)

#### 3. Move beyond sympathy to compassion

- Sympathy feels deeply with—acknowledges the problem, yet offers no solutions
- Compassion moves boldly toward resolution (*i.e., 4 friends of the lame man) (i.e., Does both—Heidi Baker prays for the blind and has schools for the blind)*