



Closing the Gap:

*Where am I?
Where do I want to be?*





Faith is the key to the life of faith.



Heb. 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.



**There is the stuff that slows us down
and then there is the stuff that can
take us down.**



Heb. 12:2 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.



Heb. 12:3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



Heb. 12:4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.



Heb. 12:5-6 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”



Heb. 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?



**Hardship does not mean God is always mad,
but it does mean God is always dad.**



**Heb. 12:8 If you are not disciplined
(and everyone undergoes discipline),
then you are illegitimate children and
not true sons.**



**God does not exist to solve our
problems...we exist to bring him glory.**



Heb. 12:9-10 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.



God will never have to ask you to forgive him for what has happened in your life.



Heb. 12:12 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.



1 Pet. 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.



**The most reasonable thing to do is to
have faith in him.**



Heb. 12:3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Consider = "Do the math"