

THE SHIELD OF FAITH: PART VI
EPHESIANS 6:10-20 & HEBREWS 12:1-2
AUGUST 30, 2009

Questions for Study & Reflection

1. The author of Hebrews says in 12:1 that we who believe in Jesus Christ are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses.” Pastor Charlie said that the word “great” means enormous so that our attention should not be focused on the persons but on the God to whom they witness. Do you see how the faithfulness of God is the key to understanding the function of the cloud of witnesses in our lives?
2. In Hebrews 12:1, the author distinguishes between the weights on our shoulders that slow us down and the sin that clings to us and tries to stop us. Do you see the wisdom in making this distinction? If so, how would you explain it?
3. Sometime today get away with the Lord and examine yourself. Ask him, Lord, what are the weights in my life that are slowing down my progress with you? What are the sins in my life that are wrapping around me and trying to trip me up and kill me?
4. Read Hebrews 3:12-15 and 10:23-27 and meditate on the fact that you need the Body of Christ in your struggle against sin. Notice that in 12:1 the author uses “us” language not “you-singular” language.
5. Pastor Charlie said that being a Christian is more like running a marathon than a sprint and therefore that we have to find the pace to finish the race. What are the practical implications of this insight for your life?
6. Since God has set a particular race before us and also revealed both himself and that race in his Word, are you seeking him through his Word and prayer that you might understand the race and your part in it? What can you do to improve this?
7. The author of Hebrews concludes in 12:2 that we’re to “fix our eyes (intensely) on Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith.” Why does he conclude this? What are the implications of not fixing our eyes on Jesus? Are your eyes intensely focused on him now?