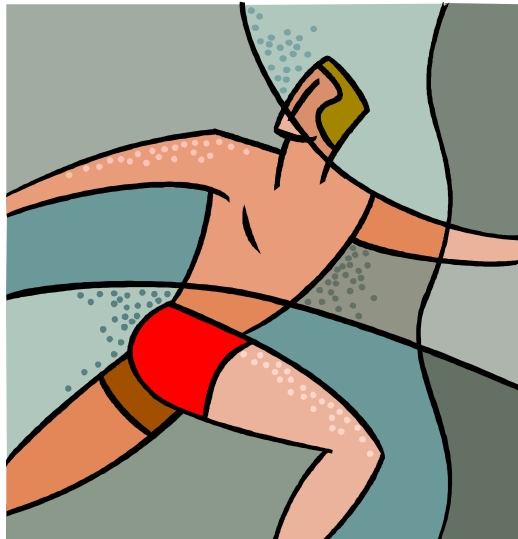


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 65

The Race & Our Burdens
What are They?



2012

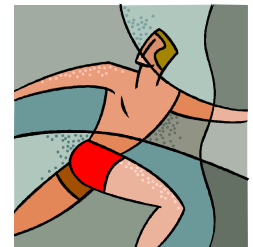
BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



Lesson

How many of you like to run races? I used to love running a race when I was a young girl so I bet many of you like it, too. As believers in Jesus, we all have to run a race but it's a spiritual race. The race we have to run is our advance in the Christian spiritual life in time on earth. Race is another word for the Plan of God. It is our course of spiritual growth and all the blessing that God our Father has designed or set for each one of us. The time frame for us to complete our race begins with our personal faith in Jesus as our Savior and ends with our physical death or the Rapture.



NEWS BULLITEN!!!! This race is VERY IMPORTANT!!! Everything that might hold us back or divert our attention must be put away and we spiritual athletes must keep our eyes fixed on the goal towards which we are running.

And what is his goal? JESUS is our GOAL!!! ***Heb 12:2 "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*** The race is jumping over obstacles to get in the arms of Jesus. The goal goes by several names, including resurrection life in time, super grace, spiritual maturity, and being made perfect or mature.

We all have a race to run. Many have gone before us. Remember our ***"so great a cloud of witnesses"*** in ***Hebrews 11?*** I hope so. They were our examples of trusting in God and the Lord to bring them to the end of their race. They laid aside every burden to finish the race. And so we must lay aside every burden or weight or sin by having faith that God would bring them through.

So we too must deal with our sin nature trying to stop our race and forward progress. We must run with patience and endurance. We must continually look to Jesus for our strength. How you ask? By studying God's Word EVERY DAY in the filling of the Spirit!!!! That's the power that drives us to run and when we run into problems, burdens, or sin nature attacks, we will be ever ready to lay them aside by giving them to God and continuing on. Faith is KEY here. Faith in God and His power.



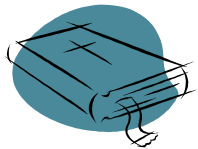
We must come to understand that whenever the Word of God calls us to do something in faith, it is never blind faith. We'll never have to be blinded and cry out into the darkness, or hold our breath while trying to get enough courage against the blackness of the looming burden before us. NO, because there are always strong supports behind and beside us, and a great and clear hope before us when we take that leap of faith...***Psa 55:22 "Cast your burden on the Lord and He will uphold you; He will never allow the righteous (believers...His children) to be shaken up."***

Christ behind us. Christ beside us. Christ inside us. Christ before us. Christ awaits us. Phil 3:10-11 "...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; (11) in order that I may arrive at the resurrection from the dead." Paul says in this verse that he wanted to come to know the power of Christ's resurrection and he realized that that same power was at work inside him. It's very clear in Col 1:28-29 when Paul says, "We proclaim (announce) Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom (God's Word), so that we may present every man complete (mature) in Christ. (29) For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." God's power was working in Paul to tell everyone he could about Jesus.



Notice what Paul went through to do this...the great purpose of the learning, the pain and affliction he suffered, the considering and knowing and enduring so he could accomplish his goal to serve Christ and finish his race. In spite of many, many burdens and sufferings, God brought Paul through it all and Paul wants that for us. He desires that we may be complete IN CHRIST.

It is the power of the Word of God times the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and it is unleashed by



faith, especially when that faith is exercised while under adversity and pressure.

Mark 5:25-34 "A woman who was very sick from bleeding for twelve years, (26) and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse (27) after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak. (28) For she thought, 'If I just touch His garments, I will get well.' (29) Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her suffering. (30) Immediately Jesus, realizing in Himself that power had come out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched My clothes?' (31) And His disciples said to Him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, Who touched Me?'" (32) And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. (33) But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. (34) And He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.'"



Our faith in the Lord for help from our sufferings releases the power to heal us. For the church age believer, it is the power-in-residence of the word of God in our souls times the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God that answers the problems of our burdens. All kinds of people were touching the Lord as the crowd pressed in against Him. But there was one who touched Him with LOTS of FAITH so that the power flowed out of Jesus into her.

There is something that a man known today only by the name of Brother Lawrence wrote hundreds of years ago in his book called "The Practice of the Presence of

God". I am not quoting him but just telling you what he said.

He often calls men blind, complaining that we are content with too little. We don't ask for the abundance that God can give from His infinite treasures. God wants to bless us abundantly but we don't ask and we restrain the flow of God's abundant grace. **If God can find a soul filled with a great faith, His grace will pour into it like a flood that found an open channel.** We often stop this flood by our lack of respect (faith) for it. But we mustn't stop it any more.



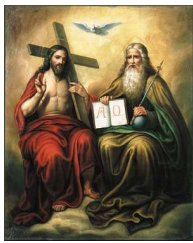
We must have FAITH that God can get us through our burdens and help us win our race. Let's look in

James 1:2-4. "**Consider** it all joy, my brethren, when you meet up with various trials (burdens), (3) **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces endurance. (4) And **let** endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect (spiritually mature) and

complete (all parts are there), lacking in nothing.” **Consider** means to claim a promise (this is the Faith-Rest drill) from God’s Word that calms your mind. Then **Knowing** means to use a doctrinal rationale to solve your problem like the essence of God rationale (God is perfect in character) or the plan of God rationale (God has a plan for your life). **Let** means to reach doctrinal conclusions from the Word in stored in your soul. Have **faith** in God and **rest** in the promised results. **Consider** God’s viewpoint of the situation and His promises. **Know** what God’s Word has to say about delivering you in the situation. **Let** it happen. Trust Him and abide (walk everyday) in Christ and rest in faith, knowing the results that what God’s Word promises will happen.

1 Thess 2:13 “For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the Word of God which you heard from us (Paul), you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the Word of God**, which also performs its **work** in you who **believe**.”

Eph 1:18-21 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will **know** what is the hope (confidence) of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the surpassing greatness of **His power** toward us who **believe**. That power is the same as the mighty strength (20) He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority (Satan and his demons), power and dominion, and every name that can be called upon, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.”



If you are a believer in Christ...NEVER forget that you have been regenerated...born again. NEVER forget that you have been placed in union with Christ. NEVER forget that Christ lives in you. And that the Father and the Spirit also live in you permanently. And that you have that new and eternal life from God implanted in your human spirit. And that the Word of God is alive and powerful. And that the Spirit has given you your spiritual gift.

You will go through a difficult time in your life...yeah and you have to endure it and it hurts a lot but you put your faith into action and you consider, know, and let God help you and then you can breath this tremendous SIGH of RELIEF knowing He will take care of it and get you through it!!!

Now you can look forward to Him doing all kinds of things for you (HE will POUR out His blessings if you ask and believe it). Then you will say, “I got through that.” You watched, you considered, you knew and you let God help you and you got great results...guaranteed...according to the Word of God.

You WILL get help with your burdens and you WILL finish your race with endurance to spiritual maturity...complete in Christ!!!

Our job? TRUST Him. Continue to have faith in Him. Abide in Him.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley’s lesson on November 30, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

