

Monday, 07 January 2008

[Hebrews 12: 1-3](#)

Heb 12:1-3 Therefore, having so vast a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, and throwing off everything that hinders us and especially the sin that so easily entangles us, let us keep running with endurance the race set before us, looking off to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of the faith, who, in view of the joy set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Think about the one who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you may not become tired and give up.

New Years Resolutions.

Yes, a new year is here, and ready or not, we have to continue living to the best of our abilities. When we face the new challenges it may bring we cannot help but wonder how we will ever make it. We may have knowledge of a possible illness, an operation awaiting us, or even a family member whose health is rapidly failing, and we fear what results this year may hold. We may have to start on a new road to travel on, and we find ourselves unsure if we should be going in the one direction, or the other. Those who completed the schooling or university training are venturing into a new world, unsure if there will be employment for them, and how would the new, unknown environment accept them, and treat them. Plans are made, and goals are set.

Maybe your goals for 2008 are not as drastic as the ones mentioned, but more reachable, and obtainable with less effort, for example, to lose some weight, and get fit. To read at least 12 books this year, or learn a new language. Take a course, and better your chances of getting a better position, or even a raise. Who knows. Maybe your goal is to make your first million this year, and to be known as a millionaire. Maybe you plan on buying a new car, or house, getting married, or even starting a family. You will know the goals and targets that you have set for yourself. You will know the challenges waiting on you in 2008. Are you ready for them?

Looking at a future that is an unknown is more often than not, simply scary. Especially if the odds are mostly against you, for example in a health situation, or talks of retrenchments at your place of employment. It is challenging to have to go and look for employment, and we often fear the results, and rejection. Reading our scripture in Hebrews, we are once again reminded of life, being a race. We all know that a race is not known for being the easiest thing on earth. Mostly it is associated with hard work, exercise, sweating, cramps, fatigue, steep inclines, hurdles, injuries and a good chance of failing. No wonder it is compared to life. But Paul is giving us a winning recipe. He is teaching us to keep our eyes on Jesus, our encouragement to keep on going, regardless of the possibility of hurdles, and stumbling blocks. We will never be alone in this coming year, for we have the Promise of the Lord that He will never leave us, nor forsake us. No matter what the year may hold, He will be there for us, and take us through it. We have a choice, either looking down at all the stumbling blocks around us, and getting downhearted, or keeping our eyes on Jesus in 2008, and making stepping stones of all the stumbling blocks, that potentially threaten to make us fall. Where do you fix your eyes for 2008? The choice is yours.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. [david@davidniebuhr.com](mailto:david@ davidniebuhr.com)

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