

Let us fix our  
eyes on  
Jesus  
the  
author and  
perfecter of  
our faith,  
who for the joy  
set before him  
endured the cross ...

Hebrews 12:2



# Hebrews 12:1-2

## I. Preconditions for the Race (v.1a-b)

- A. Support from the cloud of witnesses for the congregation in its race (1a).
- B. Congregation's removal of all impediment to progress (1b).

## II. Character of the Race (vv.1c-2)

- A. The appeal to run together persistently as a team of athletes in the race (1c).
- B. Running with persistence focusing on Jesus, the founder and finisher of the race (2).
  - 1. Jesus, the **founder** of the race and the model for endurance by His death on the cross (2a).
  - 2. Jesus, the **finisher** of the race with His work as Priest and King (2b)

# Outline



The Preacher now builds a bridge from his previous examples of faith to exhort the congregation to focus their attention to the race set before them.

+ He does this through verbal repetition.

- “so then”; “for that reason”
- The use of “seeing”; “looking”

# Context/Structure

# The Athletic Imagery

- “let us run”



- “putting off”

## Context/Structure



# The Appeal is Corporate

- The race of the congregation



The Focus...the race that Jesus ran!

## Context/Structure



“So then, as for us, having such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, putting off every weight and the sin that clings so closely, let us run with perseverance the race set before us...”



TO

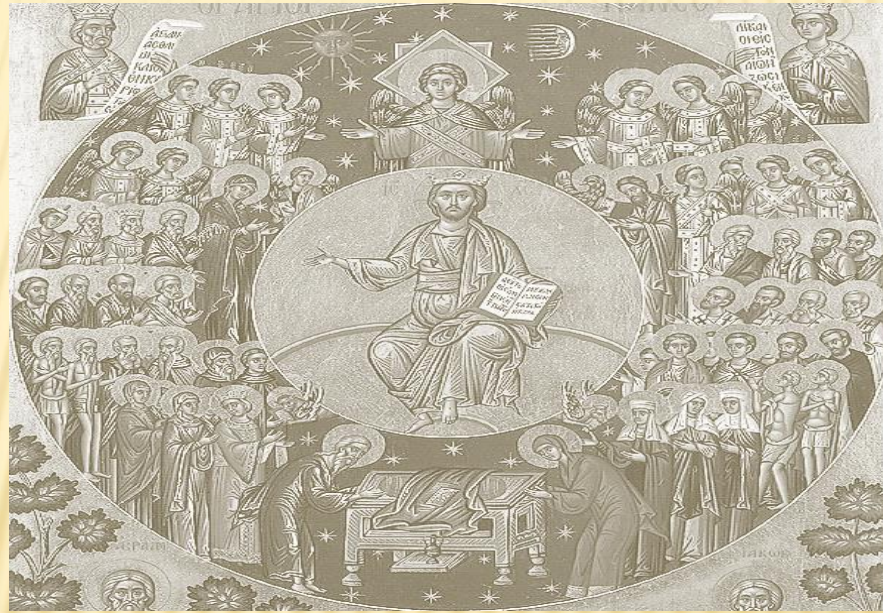
**Shepherd of the  
Springs Lutheran  
Church**

**Hebrews 12:1**



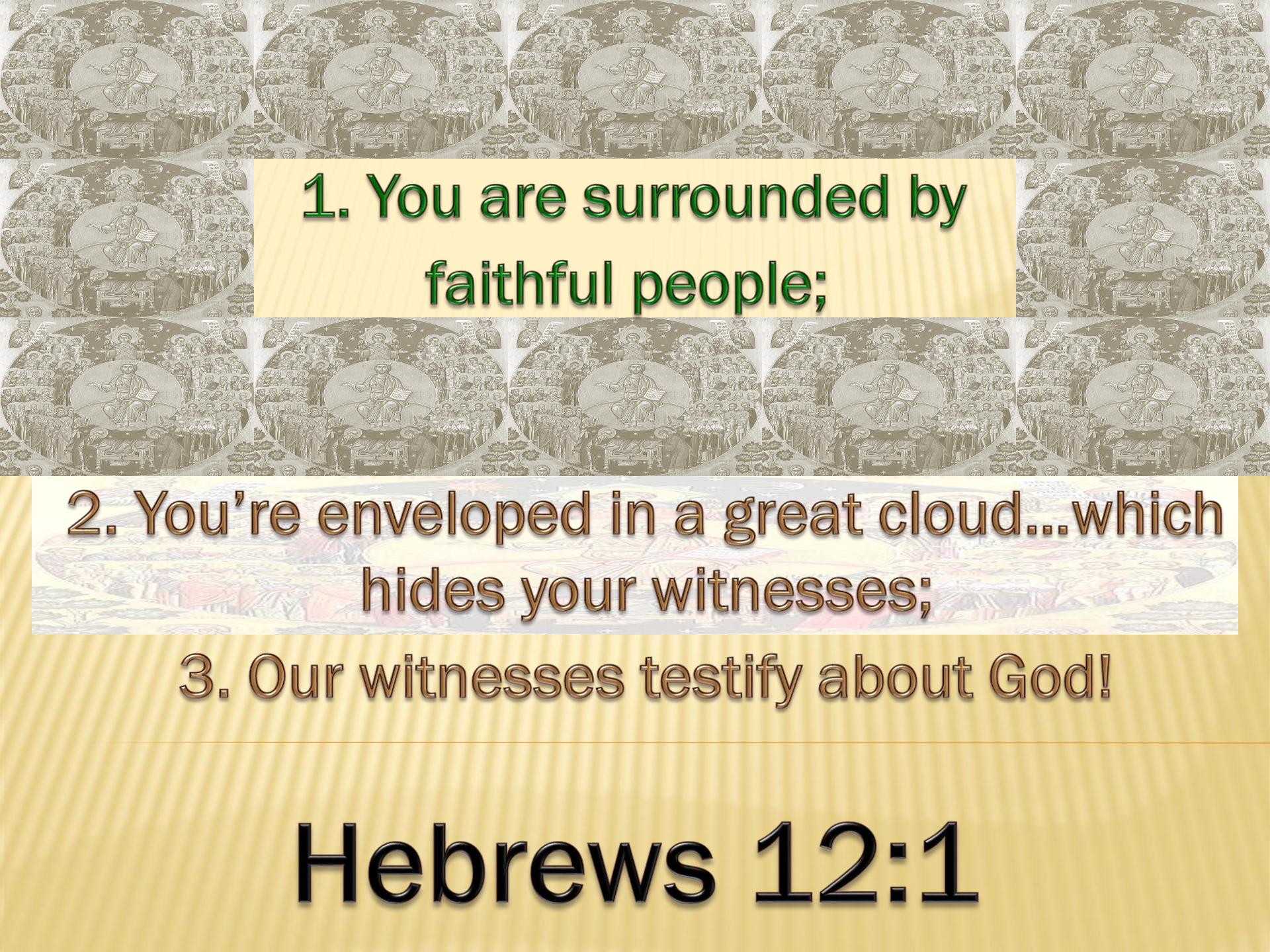
# Three Imagery Challenges

1. You are surrounded by  
faithful people;



Hebrews 12:1





1. You are surrounded by  
faithful people;

2. You're enveloped in a great cloud...which  
hides your witnesses;

3. Our witnesses testify about God!

**Hebrews 12:1**



Since you have such a great cloud of witnesses... you are to put off all that weighs you down!



What are some of the “weights” of a runner?

- Fatigue (cf. 12:3)
- Exhaustion (cf. 12:12)

# Hebrews 12:1



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**Hebrews 12:1**



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# Hebrews 12:1

Notice the preacher does not tell us about the race or where is the race, but you are encouraged to run with “perseverance.”

- + To run to the end;
- + enduring pain;
- + God’s promised intervention.

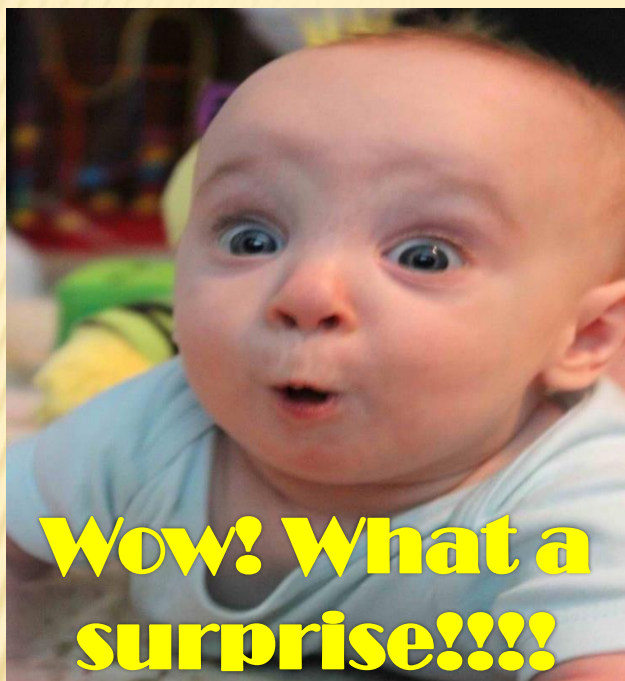


# Hebrews 12:1



“...looking to the author and finisher of the faith, Jesus, who, for the sake of the joy set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God’s throne.”

**Hebrews 12:2**



**Your endurance  
depends on...**

**Hebrews 12:2**



...looking  
to Jesus



Hebrews 12:2



# JESUS

THE AUTHOR  
AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

**Hebrews 12:2**



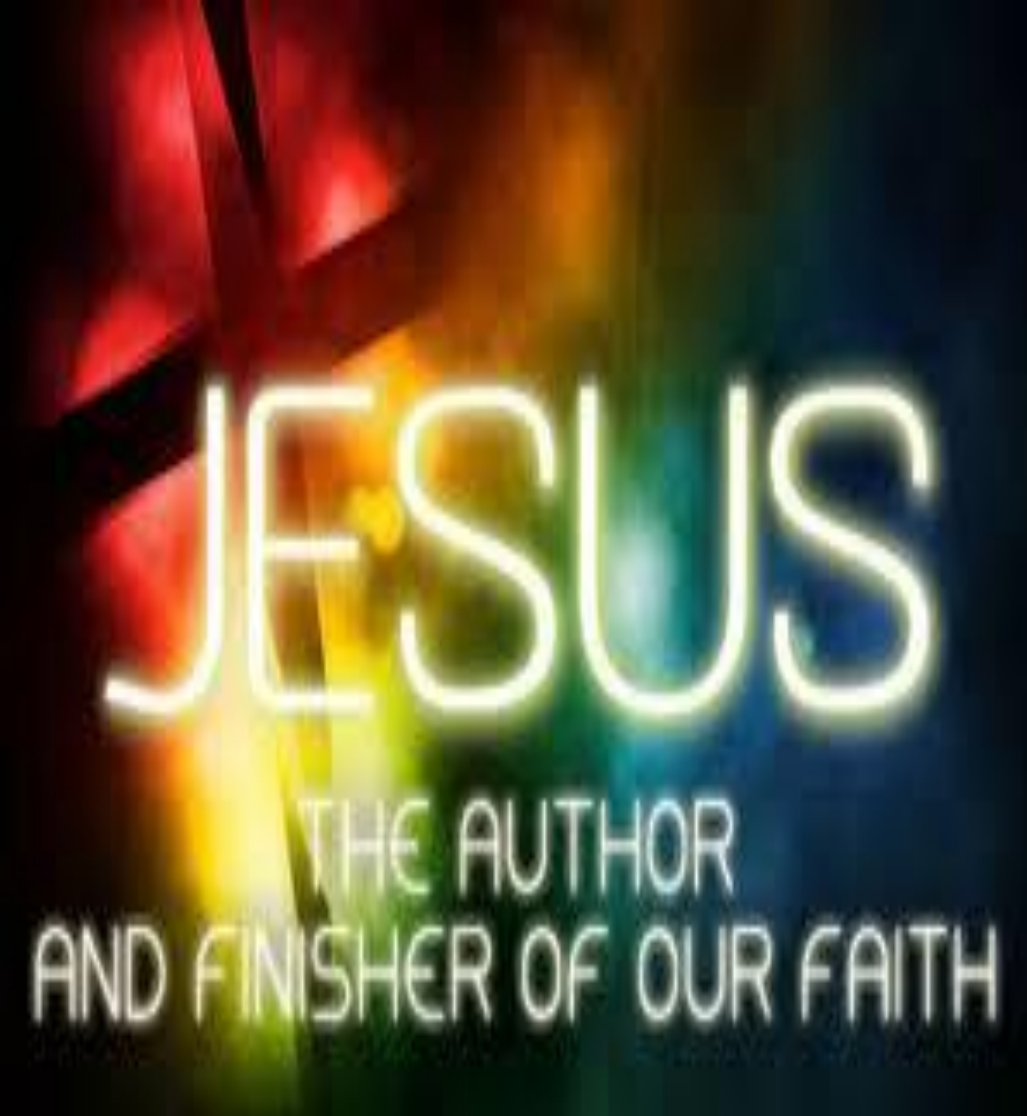


# JESUS

THE AUTHOR  
AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

Jesus, His personal Name, emphasizes His humanity. He, the obedient man, by His life and death opened the way to the Father's presence (cf. 10:20) .

## Hebrews 12:2



He is the Author  
of the race!  
Jesus is the  
founder and  
content of faith.  
He is the One  
who ran the race  
to the end (cf.  
2:10).

Hebrews 12:2





# JESUS

THE AUTHOR  
AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

He is the Finisher of the race. He is NOT a forerunner, but the ongoing source of your eternal salvation for all who obey Him (cf. 5:9).

## Hebrews 12:2



# JESUS

THE AUTHOR  
AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

Perfected by His  
sacrificial death,  
your Great High  
Priest perfects you;  
by bringing you to  
the finish line (10:14);  
and strengthening  
you with His Body  
and His Blood.

## Hebrews 12:2



So in running the race of faith you depend on Jesus from beginning to end. Just as every good gift comes from God through Jesus, so you come to God through Jesus (7:25).



Hebrews 12:2



Hebrews 12:2



# -JESUS-



Prophet.



Priest.



King.

**Hebrews 12:2**

**This morning, this pericope, which isn't used in our lectionary, gets to the central idea of:**

## **All Saints' Day!**

- + It provides for you a very clear and concise instruction on what is meant by “the communion of saints!”**
- + It provides for you the central focus of Divine Service...the crucified and exalted Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **Conclusion**