

# **H12:1 ENDURANCE RACE**



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**H12:1**

## **ENDURANCE RACE**

“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.”

Hebrews 12:1

# FORWARD

What's the big deal about Jesus? Peace, Love, Joy, Assurance of Eternal Life in Heaven... These are just some of the changes I've experienced after I chose to surrender my life to Jesus Christ. It's a big deal because you can't truly experience these feelings without Him. Jesus is the only way to God. It is an honor to be able to share His great gift with you. My life was changed, my soul was saved, my Father's love was felt, and peace – even during the darkest days – has filled me. All at the foot of Jesus' cross. We share this with you because it is too important, too great not to. I pray that you may also feel the joy of being a child of God!

Thank you for visiting DRP and downloading this eBook.

James L. Doughton  
*President/CEO DRP Performance Products*

## Why Did You Download This eBook?

Why have you downloaded this eBook? What is it that you're looking for? Perhaps, you have downloaded it with no real purpose. Or perhaps not. See, the Bible teaches that people don't initiate a pursuit of God by themselves. They respond to God's initiative and pursuit of them. God actually draws people to him. In fact it was Jesus who made that statement.

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44*

In other words, you may not be able to explain why you are here, but it is definitely not by chance. God has drawn you to him and he has something he wants to reveal to you about himself.

## God's Message For You

God has the power to draw you to him because he knows you better than you even know yourself, he is your creator. You were created with a very specific purpose and that was to enjoy fellowship with God and everything else that he has created.

### **The Bible says:**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.' Genesis 1:27-28

Amazingly enough though, with all the power that God possesses as your creator, he will not force you to fulfill your purpose. In fact, he graciously has given you the free choice to decide on your own; just as he did for Adam and Eve. Unfortunately, they chose to be disobedient to God and that brought punishment to them and all of their descendants, including you and me. The punishment is being separated from God, through death, forever.

**The Bible says:**

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned... Romans 5:12

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death... Romans 6:23

## **The Race Isn't Over - It's Just Beginning**

Perhaps I should say it doesn't have to be the end. See, God loves you, his creation, so much that he has provided a way out. Again though, he will not force you to take it. If the punishment for the sin of man was death; what would happen if a man without sin were to willingly lay down his life? Well, thankfully we don't have to guess at this. In fact, God's way out is through his son Jesus Christ who was perfect and who did lay his life down on a cross and rose from the grave – having conquered death. Why? Well, God loves us as his creation and can't stand the thought of us not having a way to return to him. By Jesus, being without sin, laying down his life and dying on the cross and rising from the grave, he was able to fulfill the entire punishment of man in the eyes of God and conquer death.

**The Bible says:**

...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

For God so loved the world that he gave his begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:17

Remember, God has provided the way to the finish line for you but you have to make the decision to follow it. That decision is the focus of this eBook. Will you accept Jesus' sacrifice and commit your life to him? It is an eternal commitment and you should give it some serious thought.

### **The Bible says:**

That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.' Matthew 16:24-25

God does not want a half hearted commitment. He wants to rescue every bit of you and leave nothing behind. This is an 'all or nothing' type of decision. Now don't worry, you don't have to clean yourself up, or work on being a better person before you make the decision because God wants to take you 'as is'. Remember, he wants to rescue you from where you are. Your decision is simply to accept his offer to rescue you and commit your life to following him. There are no strings attached.

### **The Bible says:**

For by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

The offer to rescue you has not come to you because you have done something to deserve it. In fact, nobody could ever do enough to earn it. It has been offered by God's grace, his unearned love.

## **Before You Start Your Engine**

If you are planning to accept this offer and make this commitment, it will change your life forever. Maybe you're thinking "but I don't know how to live any different than I am living right now, and I realize that God's probably not happy with me because I'm doing things that even I know aren't right". God has provided many tools to help you once you make this decision, but two of the most important are; the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

## **The Bible says:**

*But the counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26*

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16

See, God does not want to lose you and even more than that, once he rescues you he wants to help you experience the life you were created to live, a life as his creation. The decision is in your hands.

## **Getting The Green Flag**

If you have come to this point and are ready to accept Jesus and commit your life to him, here are some key things to remember when communicating your decision to God:

- There are no magic words that must be spoken, just speak as honestly as you can
- Acknowledge to yourself and to God what the scope of the situation is
  - Admit that you are in need of rescue
  - Ask for forgiveness for your past, present and future disobedience to God (remember God will work to improve upon us for eternity and he wants us to be honest with him all along the way)
  - Believe that Jesus did in fact live a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose from the grave so that you could be rescued if you so choose.
- Let Jesus know that you will accept his offer to rescue you, that you will commit to following him for the remainder of your life, and that you will need his help to do so all along the way.

If you have done that with an honest heart, you can rest assured that you will cross the finish line a winner and nothing will ever change that.

## **The Bible says:**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13

# Running Your Race

The very next step is to be extremely grateful for the grace and mercy that you have just received in Jesus Christ. You have been rescued!

It is good to remember that just as a baby must crawl before they can walk and walk before they can run, so a new believer must be patient. Things may not change over night, but there are a few steps you can make at this early stage that are not only practical but biblical for your new life as a Christian.

1. **Tell someone you have become a Christian** – you might find it easier and have a much better reception if you will find another Christian you know and notify them.
2. **Get involved in a church** – not just any church though. Seek out a church that will teach you the Bible. This is a good time to exercise your prayers in asking God to help guide you to a good church.
3. **Be Baptized** – baptism is a biblical principle for those who have accepted Jesus to identify themselves with him. Simply put it is an outward symbol of an inward change.
4. **Read your Bible** – don't worry about where or what to read, just start with something that interests you. Maybe a story you have always heard about, or maybe you want to read what verses are around the most popular verse in the Bible, John 3:16. A daily quiet time in God's word will grow your relationship. God speaks to us through His word. This is another good opportunity to exercise your prayers in asking God to teach you His word. (remember that the Holy Spirit now lives within you and is there to teach you from God's word)

## The Road Ahead

Your new life as a Christian will not always be easy and accepting Jesus is not the answer to get out of some of the sticky situations you might be in. You may have to go through some of the rough spots to reach the finish line. Always remember that you are never alone, you have been rescued, God has a purpose for your life, and God loves you.

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. Hebrews 12:1



## Share The Good News

If you've accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior through this eBook, we want to hear all about it! Nothing would give us greater joy and satisfaction than to know that you have accepted the salvation gift of Jesus Christ.

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Rocky Mount, VA 24151  
1-888-399-6074

*\*Be sure to request your free copy of the New Testament as well.*

We'd also like to encourage you to send this eBook to others who need to hear the wonderful truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## H12:1 Endurance Race Resources

When it comes to racing, having the right tools and the best parts can make the difference between finishing first and finishing at all. Now that you've started your H12:1 Endurance Race, we're here to supply you with some resources that will help you along the way.

**Jesus.org**

*Get biblical answers to common questions many Christians have about Christ our Savior. Many people have questions about Jesus and on this site you will find biblical answers to the most common questions asked about the birth and life of Christ, his ministry and disciples, and of course the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.*

**Biblestudytools.org**

*Offering the freshest and most compelling biblically-based content to Christians who take seriously their relationship with Christ. Bible Study Tools gives Christians of any age and at any stage the opportunity to read, study, understand, and apply the Bible to their lives. With free devotionals, study guides, helpful articles, and rich personalization functions, visitors to Bible Study Tools will be able to make the most of their Bible study time, and unlock its meaning for their lives in new and important ways.*

**Gotquestions.org**

*GotQuestions.org is a volunteer ministry of dedicated and trained servants who have a desire to assist others in their understanding of God, Scripture, salvation, and other spiritual topics. We are Christian, Protestant, conservative, evangelical, fundamental, and non-denominational. We view ourselves as a para-church ministry, coming alongside the church to help people find answers to their spiritually related questions.*

**GodTube.com**

*Godtube.com is a video sharing platform offering online Christian videos with faith-based, family friendly content. Popular video sections on Godtube include; Christian bands and singers in Christian music videos, Christian comedians and comedy skits, spoofs and parodies in funny videos, cute videos featuring kids and animals, sports videos, Christian news videos and inspirational videos. Be inspired in your walk with Jesus Christ and grow in your knowledge of the Bible with videos highlighting inspirational messages and verses.*

**Bgea.org**

*BGEA exists to support and extend the evangelistic calling and ministries of Billy and Franklin Graham by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all we can by every effective means available and by equipping others to do the same.*



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