

## The Power of Uncompromised Intentions

From Hebrews 12:1-3

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### From Hebrews 12:1-3 THE POWER OF UNCOMPROMISED INTENTIONS

#1. Personal intentions *\*displace attitudes\**. Intentions are harder, more durable. Feelings, emotions, tendency, and opinions, as reflected in behavior, are fully irrelevant to what is at hand. The Lord does not appear to be overly concerned with how we feel. We do not preoccupy; we just run.

#2. Intentions are complemented by *\*a state of mind called "endurance"\** v.1. There are 3 priorities: (1) Stay in the race, (2) Focus on the race, (3) Finish the race.

#3. Intentions override resistance to the priorities. "Encumbrances" and sinful "entanglements" must be faced down v.2. No one is perfect, but we all must run.

#4. Intentions are to be referred to "the great cloud of witnesses" v.2. Jesus (v.2, 3). Abraham, Rahab, Joseph, Moses (chapter 11) and others are witnesses to us about how to run the race for eternal life or death.

#5. Intentions support an abstemious life. The runner, being disciplined, is not self-indulgent v.2, 3.

#6. Intentions are incompatible with defeatism. One does not "grow weary and lose heart" v.3.

#7. Intentions are immediate. Every day, every event, every situation and circumstance is a segment of the race. We should treat them that way. The runner is not to be nonplussed; that is, confused, baffled, perplexed or indifferent.

#8. Intentions are built on revealed conceptions of life. The Almighty regards the Christian life as a race.

So be it then. Our uncompromised, non-negotiable intentions comply.