



*52 Weeks  
of Power*

WEEK 04

# Week 04



## HEBREWS 12:1-2

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“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, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

I love sports! I love watching sports. I love playing sports. I love talking sports. It doesn't matter what it is, if there's

athleticism and winning involved, I'm interested. Last week, 127.7 million viewers from across the globe helped make Super Bowl LIX the most-watched Super Bowl ever. The Philadelphia Eagles lost the big game in 2023, so seeing their star Quarterback, Jalen Hurts, win MVP was a special moment.

Do you ever see moments like this and ask yourself how some athletes are able to achieve their levels of greatness? What did they have to say "no" to in order to fix their eyes on being the best?

We often only see the highlight reels of these elite athletes' training—the touchdowns and other incredible plays. What we don't see are the countless early mornings, strict meal plans, missed parties, and the hours in the gym. Each sacrifice, every "no" to a distraction, is a "yes" to their ultimate prize, a Super Bowl ring.

The writer of Hebrews paints a similar picture for us in our walk of faith. We're instructed to drop everything that holds us back. It's the same principle for an athlete who takes off the weighted gear during training or who lives on a strict

diet. For me and you, that means dropping some habits, relationships, or mindsets that keep us from focusing on what truly matters—our relationship with Jesus.

Like an athlete who is focused on their finish line, we need to fix our eyes on Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” This truth is a great reminder of why we should keep pushing forward. We have a Savior who finished His race for us and now empowers us to run ours. What is the “race” God has called you to? It could be exercising greater patience when at home, pursuing a calling God placed on your heart, or stepping away from a pattern of sin. I don’t know what it is for you, but I do know that it will require saying “no” to something so you can say “yes” to something much better.

*READ:*

Isaiah 40:28-31

*REFLECT:*

Question 1: What weights or distractions have the potential to hold you back from fixing your eyes on Jesus?

Question 2: How might seeing Jesus as the “pioneer” and “perfecter” of faith change your approach to difficult seasons or challenges?

*PRAYER:*

Lord, help me see the ways I can better focus on You. Show me the distractions that keep me from growing in faith. Teach me the joy of discipline and perseverance as I follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen

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