



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

July 2013

Thank you so much for the kind notes and phone calls during the loss of my father, Curtis Hodges. You are special, just like dad! Dad would say, "What's next? Let's keep moving!" And so, that's what we will do!

“ We continue to share the gospel with every person, encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the glory of God. ”

Let's be reminded that Jesus left heaven and began a 33-year journey on planet earth. He began this race to redeem man back to God the Father, and that includes you and me. He perfectly completed what God the Father sent Him to do and He encourages and enables us to carry on the work that He started.

The writer says in Hebrews 12:1 - *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”*

In these opening verses, the writer uses the dramatic picture of an amphitheater in which thousands of people have gathered to watch a race of long distance runners. The readers of this epistle are the runners on the track, and the great heroes of the faith (chapter 11) are the spectators ... **so great a cloud of witnesses** ... who are in the stands.

The faithful believers of chapter 11 have finished the race and are now in heaven shouting, as it were, their encouragement as they watch us run the race. It's as if they shout their encouragement to us from the pages of Scripture. Now, we are on the track. It is our turn to be faithful. Just like Jesus came to *“seek and to save that which was lost,”* (**Luke 19:10**) we are to do the same.

I remember, many years ago, as a young person, hearing a man named Bill Gothard, say how important it is for young people to read the biographies of great men and women of God. At a low point in my own Christian journey, I started to read biographies. They encouraged me, inspired me, and I could see what God will do regardless of circumstances if His children will simply surrender control of everything to Him.

A great book to consider reading is **“They Found the Secret”** by **V. Raymond Edman**. This book has short spiritual biographies of men and women who God used in the most marvelous way.



Chris Hodges  
President & CEO

Now, the writer of Hebrews goes on to say in **Hebrews 12** - “***let us*** lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares ***us***, and ***let us*** run with endurance the race that is ***set before us.***”

You see, the Christian race is not an option. Notice ... it is “***set before us.***”

The day you became a Christian, you were not put at the finish line, but on the starting blocks. God has appointed us to run. We must run. Whether you know it or not, as an individual Christian, you are in this race, you are involved in this journey.

During this moment we call time, you and I are to ... “***glorify God by encouraging all people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, discipling them in spiritual growth, and equipping them to make disciples of the nations.***” **It is Christ In Us For Others! Forever!**

Just think how a dad or mom watches their child run a race or compete in some sport. They watch, anticipating the child will occasionally look their way and they want him to see them with an encouraging hopeful look on their faces, cheering them on!

My friend, Jesus is cheering you on from the eternal realm! Jesus is cheering you on in the time realm by the inward presence of the Holy Spirit.

I encourage you to remember, you are alive and here on this earth for a purpose, God’s purpose. Choose as an act of your will to live out His eternal purpose for you and not the temporary purpose you might have, in error, developed for yourself. **It’s time my friend to let go and let God have all there is of you!**

Please continue to support us so that we may remain on radio in Memphis, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and other parts of the world, and as we disciple people through the mail with Bible lessons.

God loves you. You are special! God never makes duplicates, only originals, and you are an original who is in Christ and Christ is in you!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3