



# The Monthly Beacon

*"When Jesus spoke to the people again, He said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

*- John 8:12*

## Trusting God to Get It Done

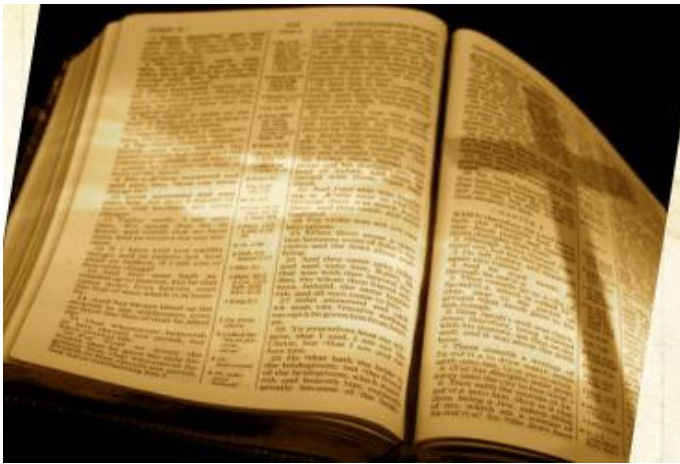
*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-2a*

The constant echo of achieving goals is lost almost before the words leave our lips. Good intentions are great but if they don't achieve the objectives set are we simply dreamers or people who are determined to unrelentingly pursue what God has for us? Is it possible that we are holding ourselves back?

Occasionally we will experience discouragement when trying to reach an objective and discouragement can lead to despair and when despair sets in so can hopelessness and distress. Understanding why we have unmet expectations is worth exploring and God's word gives us a formula for achieving God established goals. He tells us to "lay aside every weight".

Years ago, when I took up weight training I understood that it would help me to build lean muscle to be stronger and better equipped to go through the motions of life. I was led through something referred to as resistance training an exercise using weights that cause muscles to contract against external resistance with the expectation of increased strength and endurance. Weight training is strength training.





When Paul admonished us to lay aside every weight he was encouraging us to put down or lay aside the heaviness of sin that keeps us from moving forward. You see in resistance training you aren't consistently carrying around the weight, no; as you pick the weight up you are also laying it down. The same can apply to our spiritual lives. Sin, the things we've committed against God are weights. If you are constantly punishing yourself for past sins you have committed, you are picking up the weightiness of sin and you will never achieve your goals. You are basically saying that God can't possibly or is incapable of forgiving you of the heaviness of sin. Satan will always remind you of what you have done and seek to defeat you but it is God who already knows what you have done and who willingly gave His Son so that you and I no longer have to bear the weight of it (past and or present) because He bore it on the cross which enables us to resist the accusations of Satan.

No one is perfect, no one, but God is and when we rely on Him no goal will be unmet. The more you resist the snares of Satan you gain strength and are better equipped to achieve success. You never have to pick up the weightiness of sin again. Leave it at the foot of the cross.

What will make this year different? Christ! But only if you rely on His power, His strength, and His unwavering love.