

## Gotta Go, Can't Stop

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### Hebrews 12:1-3

#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

#### Guest Speaker:

#### Rev. S. Mark Haywood II

At the age of 6, God revealed to S. Mark Haywood II that he had a divine calling on his life. God continued to lead and guide Mark in his formative years, and at the age of 10, Mark became saved. Nearly two decades later, Mark formally accepted his calling to the ministry.



S. Mark Haywood II graduated from Clear Lake High School 1999 on the "Advanced with Honors" program and earned recognition as a National Merit Scholar. He went on to earn two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Economics and Africana Studies from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where he joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in 2000 and graduated in 2004. Subsequently, Mark earned a Master of Science degree in Finance from the University of Houston – Clear Lake and a Master Certificate in Applied Project Management from Villanova University in Philadelphia, PA in 2009. He currently is enrolled at Grace School of Theology, where he is pursuing a Masters of Theology.

Mark serves as Executive Pastor for God's Household of Faith in Dickinson, TX. He is a co-founder of H&H Praise Ministries, in which he has taught, promoted, and spread the Gospel through the pantomime art form since 1996. Currently, Mark serves as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for The Institute for Theological Studies (ITS), utilizing his budgeting, accounting, and financial analysis skills to aide ITS as they fulfill their mission to educate the body of Christ. Mark also serves as a Financial Representative for Northwestern Mutual, providing his clientele with the best in service – in the areas of risk management, wealth accumulation, and wealth protection – to help them reach their financial goals and dreams.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Hebrews 12:1-3

<sup>1</sup>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,

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ② EXPLORE His Word

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What does God MEAN?

1. a. To whom is the author referring when he says, “we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us?”

b. What can we learn from them?

2. a. Why would the author make a distinction between “every encumbrance” and “the sin which so easily entangles us?” Is there a difference?

b. If there is a difference, how does each adversely impact our faith-walk with the Lord?

3. a. Given what Jesus put Himself through, why would the author call Him the “author and perfecter of faith?”

b. How does He become our model to follow?

## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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