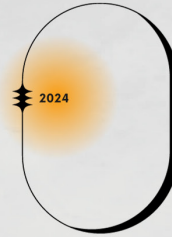


# RUNNING INTO THE NEW YEAR



## RUNNING INTO THE NEW YEAR

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

December 31, 2023

Chuckk Gerwig, Guest Speaker

Chuckk Gerwig has a long history and a deep love for preaching as well as equipping, discipling and encouraging other pastors. He has served on and led international missions in 15 countries, on over 35 trips. Chuckk is now a full-time missionary for Global Training Network, training pastors globally for God's glory.

Pastor Chuckk was the Senior Pastor and founding church-planter of Elevation Church, a mission-focused church in Santa Cruz, California for 13 years. He has served effectively in various pastoral roles in several churches and para-church organizations for over 40 years.

In the past, Chuckk played lead guitar in many California rock bands, including some Christian artists like Randy Stonehill, Brian Duncan, and David Edwards. Chuckk loves Jesus King of All, Labrador Retrievers, fine electric guitars, Mesa Boogie amplification and Harley Davidsons. He is a cross-country motorcycle adventurer, and lover of people everywhere he journeys.

He is the faithful husband to Andrea Gerwig for 42 years. He is a blessed father of two daughters, Jessi & Carly, as well as son-in-law, Matt. His current favorite identity is that of "Pop" to his identical twin grandsons, Ezra and Noah. Find out more about his ministry and life at [www.chuckk.org](http://www.chuckk.org)

### MESSAGE NOTES

*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. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. – Hebrews 12:1 – 3 (NIV)*

#### I. A Runner's Attire

*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. – Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

#### II. A Runner's Attitude

*...Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. – Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

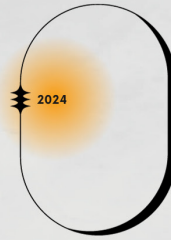
*"Run in such a way as to get the prize." – 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)*

*"By faith he (Moses) left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible." – Hebrews 11:27 (NIV)*

#### III. A Runner's Attention

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. – Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)*

# RUNNING INTO THE NEW YEAR



## IV. A Runner's Contemplation

*Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.  
– Hebrews 12:3 (NIV)*

### Winning!

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that Day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing. – 2 Timothy 4:7 – 8 (NIV)*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Personal Reflection:** How can you practically “lay aside every weight” in your life to run the race of faith with endurance, as mentioned in Hebrews 12:1? What specific burdens or distractions do you need to release in order to follow Christ more closely?
- **Endurance in Trials:** In the face of current challenges or difficulties, how can the assurance of being surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses” encourage you to persevere in your faith journey, as suggested in Hebrews 12:1?
- **Fixing Your Eyes on Jesus:** What intentional steps can you take to fix your eyes on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of your faith, especially in the midst of a distracting and chaotic world (Hebrews 12:2)? How does this focus influence your daily decisions and priorities?
- **Enduring Shame and Opposition:** Hebrews 12:2, mentions Jesus enduring the cross and despising the shame. How can you apply this same attitude to your own life, particularly when facing opposition or shame for your faith? In what ways can you find strength in Christ’s example?
- **Consideration of Struggles:** How can reflecting on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross reshape your perspective on your own struggles, making them more bearable and purposeful, according to Hebrews 12:3?
- **Preventing Weariness:** In what practical ways can you guard against becoming “weary or fainthearted” in your faith journey, as cautioned in Hebrews 12:3? How can the lessons from this passage help you stay spiritually resilient?