

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Two errors we can make when approaching “The Intentional Life With God”:

1) “Our relationship with God is riding *completely* on us being intentional with Him”
- This is NOT the gospel!

2) “Our relationship with God is completely secure, so we don’t have to do *anything at all*, to be intentional in our relationship with Him.”
- This is NOT how the Bible speaks

2 Peter 3:14 (NIV)- “So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, *make every effort* to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him”

Hebrews 4:11 (ESV)- “Let us therefore *strive* to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.”

Luke 13:24 (NIV)- “*Make every effort* to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.”

What is “The Intentional Life With God” all about?

- It’s about taking hold of, and delighting in, the abundant life that is already ours in Christ Jesus, so that we might reflect and bring Him glory.

Context of Hebrews 12:1-2

- The author of Hebrews writes to encourage a people struggling in their faith, to endure.

How can we endure?

1) Lay aside the hindrances

2) Look to Jesus

Hebrews 1:3a (ESV)- “He [*Christ*] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...”

Psalms 16:11b (ESV) “in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Practical application to be intentional about with God: