

PAY IT FORWARD

BY: TIMOTHY GREEN

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. KJV

You've probably heard the phrase, "pay it forward." It simply means that whenever someone does a good deed for you, instead of you repaying them, you show kindness to a third person rather than to the original person.

Paul said that we are compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses. There are many who have gone on before us who have blazed the trail and been a good example for us to follow. Men and women of faith, who ran their race and finished their course.

Heb 11:4-16 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

The same God who led them is also leading us and hopefully, we are also leading others.

We are compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, likewise we are to be witnesses to others. We have been beneficiaries of the saints of old and we should "pay it forward" to the next generation.

The question is not whether we are examples are not. Everybody is an example. The question is, an example of what? I want to be the right kind of example.