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“A Lap With Abraham”

Heb 12:1; Genesis 20

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”*

Hebrews 12:1

What gets me tripped up can get me skinned up.

Getting what’s skinned up cleaned up ... hurts.

If I’m unwilling to endure the hurt, I can make a messy situation messier.

What do I do with those sins that hook into my vulnerabilities, my tendencies; that trip me up?  
How can I experience freedom from them?

A secret weapon from God: great crowd of witnesses

If Abraham were running beside us, he would tell us regarding besetting sins:

→You are not alone.

- Genesis 12, 20

→ You can encounter God's grace in the aftermath of besetting sin.

*"And Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech..."*  
Genesis 20:17

→ You should not give up because of failure.

- *"And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."*  
Hebrews 12:1
- *"You will be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will designate."*  
Isaiah 62:2

→ God uses people as His main instrument to help me find freedom.

- *"But God came to Abimelech in a dream ... So Abimelech called Abraham and said to him..."*  
Genesis 20:3,9

→ Every mess comes pre-packaged with options to make the mess worse.

*"Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech. When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, 'She is my sister...'"*  
Genesis 26:1,7