## **Abigail Clayton**

"If you want to fly, you have to give up what is weighing you down" a quote by Toni Morrison is very similar to Hebrews 12:1, and it says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with a great 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". Toni Morrison and Hebrews 12:1 are saying very similar things about letting go of the things that hold you back, in order to be successful you have to get rid of those things. Whether that be unsupportive family and friends, the past, social media, or bad habits. Anything that is holding you back even a little bit should be disposed of. God wants us to succeed here on earth, through him. He knows you are going to go through trials and tribulations, he knows you are going to sin but in order to get to the finish line and be able to fly you have to tell yourself you want it more than the things that go against you. And sometimes those things that harm feel good in the moment, but they are really just baggage in disguise. You have to stop going back to the things you have been set free from, no going back to that addiction, no going back to that friend that is weighing down your spirit. God loves us so much that he will get rid of things that shouldn't be in your life before they have a chance to introduce themselves to you. Even when it feels like God gets rid of that one opportunity that you thought was good for you in your life. he had another door waiting for you that was greater than the rest. Even when you are being weighed down by life God promised that "he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed" Deuteronomy 31:8. There will be times in life where you will be weighed down, but God will always be there to take it from you. And even if you are in a season of your life where you are at your lowest point, just know on the other side of that season is something greater than you could imagine.