

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 12: verses 1-11 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – January 5th, 2023

Chapter 12 This chapter deals with exhortation, perseverance, and sanctification. The author exhorts and encourage the believers to press forward, and not give up, nor turn back for the rewards are to great. The author instructs the readers to persevere, which means to be willing to endure hardship, trials, and persecution without quitting or giving up, but rather continuing no matter what the cost. The author further encourages the readers to sanctify themselves, or set themselves aside from the influence of the world, which will hinder thier ability to run and finish the race in victory.

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,
 - The author builds on the prior chapter where he spoke of those heroes of faith in the old testament, who stood firm in their faith, as being witnesses of the race that we are running during this current season. Therefore the author encourages us to run this race by putting aside anything that would weight us down, or cause us not to finish the race. After putting aside anything that might slow us down, or cause us to quit, the author further encourages us to run with patience or endurance the race that is set before us.
2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - While running the race of life, with patience and endurance the author instructs us to focus our attention on Jesus, who is the author, and finisher of our faith. Who has already run, and finished the race for the joy of our salvation, despite the pain and torment He endured on the cross. And is now sitting on the right side of God the Father.
3. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
 - In the prior chapter the author presented us with many heroes that are worthy of emulating, but the greatest example of all for endurance and fortitude is Jesus Christ
4. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.
 - This verse is a follow on from the prior verse which state that Jesus' example of endurance is much more supreme because no one except Jesus has endured the cross, and the shedding of His blood for the sins of the world.
5. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
 - This verse speaks to the encouragement that one receives from the chastening of the Lord, viewed as the correction given by a father. That we should consider this chastening as encouragement and love, rather than an opportunity to hate.
 - **Proverb 3:11-12**

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6. For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
 - This verse gives confirmation that the Lord chasten, reproof, and correct those whom He have received His free gift of salvation and have been reborn by the Spirit of God.
 - **Revelation 3:19**
7. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
 - The author tells the readers that if they can endure the chastening or correcting from God, then He treats us as His sons and daughters, because what father who loves his children would not discipline them?
 - **Deuteronomy 8:5**
8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
 - The author states that if we are without being chastised, which all children receive from their fathers, then are we bastard or illegitimate, and not their child?
9. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
 - As a follow on to the prior verse the author states that humanity have had earthy fathers, who have disciplined their children, and the children respected and admired them, then how much more respect and admiration should humanity have for the creator of all life.
 - **Job 12:10**
10. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
 - This verse is a follow on from the prior verse which states that our earthly father's discipline their children for a short period of time, for what they believe would help them. Our heavenly Father disciplines His children so that they will profit from the correcting, and therefore be partakers of his holiness, and divine rewards for all of eternity.
11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
 - No one who is being discipline consider it to be pleasant or joyous at the time, however painful, the divine chasten or discipline of God will produce the fruits of righteousness for those who have been corrected by the discipline.