

The Book of Hebrews

Chapter 12: verses 12-21 - Pastor Charles A. Hall – January 12th, 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 too 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 their ability to run and finish the race in victory.

12. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

- This verse is a follow on from verse 1, which tells us to run the race of life knowing that we have a cloud of great witnesses who have run before us, therefore, to strengthen ourselves by laying aside any extra weight, which is sin, which will enable us to lift up our tired arms, and get up off our weak knees, so we can run straight.
 - **Isaiah 35:3-4**

13. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

- This verse tells the reader to run or to live life in accordance with God's ordinates, so they may be able to avoid the obstacles that would spiritually throw them off course.

14. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

- This verse states that all those who are true believers should try to live peacefully with everybody, while living holy, without holiness no one will get into heaven.
 - **Psalms 34:14**

15. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

- This verse is a follow on from the prior verse, which states that while trying to live peacefully, and holy we must carefully and thoroughly examine ourselves, so we can reflect the grace given unto us by God, and to avoid deep hidden bitterness from corrupting and defiling our spirits.
 - **Hebrews 4:1**

16. Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

- As a follow on to the prior verse to keep from defiling ourselves we should not fornicate (sexually immoral), nor be profane (disrespectful, or wicked), like Esau who did not value or properly consider his birth rights, but rather focus on his immediate and material need.

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17. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

- After Esau had given away his birthrights, and his inheritance as the first-born son of Isaac, which included the responsibility of being an heir to the blessings of the Abrahamic covenant. Esau tried to reclaim his inheritance with many tears, but it was too late.
 - **Genesis 25:27-34**

18. For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest,

- This verse through verse 29 contains the fifth and final warning from God to the Israelites where God spoke to them from Mount Sinai. God tells them that they have not come to a mountain that can be touched, but is burning with fire, with darkness, gloom, and storm.
 - **Deuteronomy 4:11**

19. And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

- For those at the mountain heard the sound of the trumpet, and the voice of God, however that voice that they heard they begged that the word would not be spoken to them again.
 - **Exodus 20:18-21**

20. (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart:

- The Israelites could not tolerate the commandments that were spoken by God, for if even an animal touch the mountain it shall be stoned to death, and pierced through with an arrow.
 - **Exodus 19:12**

21. And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

- The sight of what was happening at the mountain was so terrifying, that even Moses trembled with fear.