

# HEBREWS 12:1-29

November 10-11, 2021



1. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What imagery does the author use to portray the Christian journey of faith?

Describe the advice the author gives to those running the most important race of their lives.

Look back at Hebrews 11:4-7, 17-20 and 23-27. How can the witness of these heroes of the faith make a difference in your race of faith?

2. Read Hebrews 12:3-11. According to verse 3, how does Jesus' example of enduring suffering benefit believers? Read 1 Peter 2:21-23.
3. Hardship and suffering provide an opportunity for God to shape hearts and character. Who receives the discipline of enduring hardship according to Hebrews 12:6-7?

List the benefits of God's discipline according to the author in Hebrews 12:7-11.

Share some of the lessons you have learned from persevering through times of suffering in your life. Take a few minutes to thank God for those lessons.

4. Read Hebrews 12:12-17. What do the descriptive words in verse 12 reveal about the spiritual and emotional state of the author's audience as they experience hardship?

Record the specific actions he encourages them to take in verses 12-13.

Write down some ways we can be strengthened or help strengthen others who are having difficulty persevering through hardship and suffering.

5. Our actions as we run our faith race are always being watched by those who have not yet chosen a life of faith in Christ. What qualities does the author encourage his audience to demonstrate to everyone watching in Hebrews 12:14-16?

Consider the testimony your life is making to those around you as you persevere in our chaotic world. Record some actions or attitudes you could improve upon as you run the race of faith.

6. Esau was the first-born twin of the patriarch Isaac. Read Genesis 25:29-34. What strikes you about Esau's actions here?

Esau's need for immediate and temporary gratification of his hunger cost him his future blessings. Reread Hebrews 12:17 and Hebrews 6:4-6. What message is the author giving his readers concerning their future blessings?

7. Like Esau, many in the world today trade future blessings for temporary gratification. When are you most likely to fall prey to the temptation of temporary gratification rather than pursue eternal rewards?

What are some steps you can take to help you overcome the temptation of temporary gratification in your faith journey?

8. Read Hebrews 12:18-21 along with Deuteronomy 4:11-12; 5:22-26 which describe the time the Old Covenant was given to Moses on Mount Sinai. What words come to mind as you read these descriptions?

9. Now read Hebrews 12:22-24 which describes the heavenly city of God and the realities of the New Covenant. What words come to mind as you read about the New Covenant?

Describe the contrast you see between the two covenants.

How does seeing the privileges of the New Covenant encourage you?

10. Read Hebrews 12:25-29. Record the warning given in verse 25.

Following this final warning to his readers, our author paints a picture of the eventual remaking of heaven and earth in verses 26-27. Describe the events that usher in the eternal kingdom in the future.

List the attitudes the author encourages as they look forward to a kingdom that cannot be shaken in verse 28.

11. Consider your current race of faith. How can keeping in view the finish line of the future eternal kingdom motivate and encourage you to endure?

As you think back through our study of Hebrews, what lessons also encourage you to persevere to the finish line of faith?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

## ***Persevering in the Marathon of Faith***

Hebrews 12:1-29

*Perseverance: Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay.*

### **Persevere with Jesus**

vv. 1-4

- The Old Testament saints are examples of those who faithfully trusted God in the past.
- Progress in the marathon of faith requires putting aside burdens and sins that hinder.
- Jesus is our model and perfect example of living by faith.
- He joyfully persevered by keeping His focus on His victory over death and future reign in Heaven.

*Fix your eyes on \_\_\_\_\_, our perfect example of faith.*

*Follow His example as you persevere in your marathon of faith, remembering that Jesus endured the cross for you.*

### **Persevere with the Love of God**

vv. 5-11

- God's discipline in the lives of His children is evidence of His love for them.
- Enduring God's discipline with a submissive spirit allows believers to be trained in holiness.
- God's discipline yields a rich life of righteousness.

*Never forget God's great \_\_\_\_\_ for you as you persevere through trials, hardship, and suffering.  
Submit to His loving discipline, knowing that God is preparing you for your future.*

### **Persevere with Intentionality**

vv. 12-17

- Running the marathon of faith successfully requires spiritual strengthening along the way.
- Smooth out the path of discipleship by removing any impediments to spiritual progress.
- Pursuing peaceful relationships and personal holiness fosters godliness.
- Avoid Esau's mistake of trading future blessings for immediate gratification.

*Strive to grow stronger in your faith, being at peace with everyone, persevering in holiness.*

*Beware of the trap of complacency and \_\_\_\_\_ that leads to the loss of future blessings.*

### **Persevere with the Hope of the Future**

vv. 18-29

- The realities of the Old Covenant are contrasted with the heavenly realities of the New Covenant.
- Abel's blood cried out for justice; Jesus' blood speaks of salvation by God's grace.
- Israel suffered when they turned from God's Law; believers will suffer if they turn from Jesus.
- In the future God will shake the world, creating a new heaven and earth that will be unshakeable.

*Persevere on your marathon of faith motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ for the unshakeable Kingdom that waits.  
Worship and serve God with awe and reverence as you look towards the future with Jesus.*

*Key: Jesus, love, laziness, gratitude*

**Greater > Than – Hebrews 12:1-29**

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**MATTHEW 16:24** Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

**JAMES 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**PSALM 119:165** Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

**1 JOHN 3:2-3 (NIV)** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**1 PETER 1:15-16** [B]ut as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

**GENESIS 4:10** And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.”

**HAGGAI 2:6** “For thus says the LORD of Hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land.”

**REVELATION 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

**PHILIPPIANS 3:13b-14** [F]orgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.