

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

## Hebrews 12:1-13

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. <sup>13</sup> “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

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# The Great Cloud of Witnesses

## Hebrews 11:36-38

<sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—<sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them.



# The Great Cloud of Witnesses

Mark 8:34–35 | *The Way of the Cross*

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  
<sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.

# Keep Running the Christian Race

***Hebrews 12:1-3***

*Therefore...*

*...run with perseverance, the race...*

*...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.*

# Keep Running the Christian Race

***Hebrews 12:1-3***

*...throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.*

- **What things, thoughts, people, or habits in my life hinder me from closeness to God?**

# Keep Running the Christian Race

***Hebrews 12:1-3***

Two examples to fuel our perseverance:

1. *...such a great cloud of witnesses...*
2. *Consider Him who endured...*

# Endure Hardship as God's Fatherly Discipline

## ***Hebrews 12:4-11***

### **A. The comparative severity of our hardships**

- *...you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Heb. 12:4)*
- *Light momentary affliction (1 Cor. 4:17)*

### **B. As a Father, God uses hardship for our good.**

- *to share in His holiness (Heb. 12:10)*
- *to produce righteousness and peace (Heb. 12:11)*

# Endure Hardship as God's Fatherly Discipline

***Hebrews 12:4-11***

- **When I face hardship in life, is my general tendency to *endure* it or *evade* it?**
- **What would need to change in my life for me to embrace God's discipline as a means for my sanctification?**

# Stir the Zeal of All God's People

## ***Hebrews 12:12-14***

### **A. Stir greater zeal and strength**

- *Give/receive counsel; Share burdens (Ga. 6:1-2)*
- *Christian brotherly love in action (Rm. 12:9-12)*

### **B. Follow peace and holiness**

- *Nonresistance, enemy love, peace (Rm. 12:17-21)*
- *Conformity to God's holiness (2 Cor. 6:15-18)*

# Stir the Zeal of All God's People

***Hebrews 12:12-14***

## C. Careful Examination of Self and Brother

- *...that no one falls short of the grace of God*
  - *By returning to the Law (Ga. 5:4)*
  - *By idolatry (Dt. 29:18)*
  - *By the sin of unbelief (Heb. 3:12)*
  - *By sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18)*
  - *By godlessness (Jude 3-4)*



# Stir the Zeal of All God's People

***Hebrews 12:12-14***

- **Do I know who needs strengthening and encouragement? (Am I my brother's keeper?)**
- **What efforts am I currently making to live in peace with everyone and to be holy?**







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