
FATH

HEBREWS 11-13



“Comfort and Encouragement”

Hebrews 12:12-17

HEBREWS 11-13



A person is shown rock climbing on a dark, textured rock face. The climber is wearing a light-colored tank top and dark shorts, and is positioned on the right side of the image, reaching up to grip a rock ledge. The background is a dark, moody blue with a subtle texture.

Call to the Word

Hebrews 12-17

F A I T H

HEBREWS 11-13

Therefore, strengthen the hands which hang down,
and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for
your feet, so that what is lame may not
be *dislocated*, but rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:12-13

Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Hebrews 12:14-16

For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Hebrews 12:7-8





“Comfort & Encouragement”

Introduction

F A I T H

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Heb 12:12

So then, brace up *and* reinvigorate *and* set right your
slackened *and* weakened *and* drooping hands (AMP)

Heb 12:12

“I know, I know, we are the chosen people. But once in a while, can't You choose someone else?” (Tevye)

Heb 12:12

...strengthen **the** hands which hang down, and **the** feeble knees,

You're not only to lift your own hands up, but you're to go around finding other drooping, wobbly-kneed characters and help strengthen them.

1Th 3:2-3

2Co 1:3-4

Blessed [*gratefully praised and adored*] be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all *comfort*, who *comforts and encourages* us in every trouble so that we will be able to *comfort and encourage* those who are in any kind of trouble, with the *comfort* with which we ourselves are *comforted* by God. (AMP)

Ps 59:9-10

I will wait for You, O You, his Strength; For God *is* my defense. My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see *my desire* on my enemies.

It is only when we have experienced God's faithfulness firsthand that we can assure others that God will be faithful to them.

Heb 12:13

Pro 4:25-26

“Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.”

Path: track left by wheels

Heb 12:14

Pursue: to run swiftly in order to gain something, catch something...

Peace: absence of confusion...

Mat 13:20-21

Heb 12:14

Pursue: to run swiftly in order to gain something, catch something...

Holiness: A lack of holiness is a critical obstacle to a close relationship with God.

*“Unholy Christians are the plague of the church...
Like hidden rocks, they are the terror of navigators. It
is hard to steer clear of them: and there is no telling
what wrecks they may cause.” (Spurgeon)*

At the same time “This holiness is a thing of growth. It may be in the soul as the grain of mustard-seed, and yet not developed; it may be in the heart as a wish and a desire, rather than anything that has been fully realized, — a groaning, a panting, a longing, a striving.” (Spurgeon)

Holiness

- Moral purity
- Ethical perfection
- demonstrating “sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters.

Holiness (the practice of)

- Loving your neighbor as you love yourself, agape' style
- Disciplined mind
- Exercising Self-control

Holiness (the practice of)

- Living as God's obedient children
- Putting others before yourself
- Pursuit of the Kingdom of God... righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

Holiness (character traits)

Love:

- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Gentleness
- Faithfulness
- Self-control

Heb 12:15 – The Three Lests

“Lest” - What you prevent to avoid the risk of something bad happening...

Heb 12:15a

...looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God...

Looking carefully: “see to it” – to show practical concern

Practical Concern for what? The process of sanctification...

Heb 12:15a

Lest anyone fall short of the grace of God

Fall short: to miss, not to reach... to be left behind in the race of Faith and fail to reach the goal...

If we neglect to intentionally chase after peace and holiness, we risk those watching our example missing the grace of God

Heb 12:15b

“...lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble.”

“A bitter root bears bitter fruit”

The idea is that the grace of God is moving on, past the pain and hurt of the past. We should move on also.

Heb 12:16-17

Profane: A common person who lives for the world and not God.

Esau was a congenial fellow, a good hunter, and a man who loved his father. He would have made a fine neighbor — but **he was not interested in the things of God.**

God's grace does not fail, but we can fail to depend on God's grace. Esau is a warning to us not to live for lesser things.

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