

Hebrews 11:13-16 These [Old Testament Saints] all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them...And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. **v13-16,39-40**

Hebrews 12:1-29 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **v1-2**

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." **v3-6**

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate & not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, & we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits & live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. **v7-11**

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. 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. 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. **v12-17**

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") **v18-21**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. **v22-24**

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.. **v25-27**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. **v28-29**

=====

Heb 12:3 Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or discouraged in your souls.

1. **Who is Him in verse 3?**
2. **What does it mean to consider something?**

CONSIDER: To fix the mind on, with a view to a careful examination; to think on with care; to ponder; to study; to meditate on.

3. **What are Christ followers supposed to be considering daily (always)?**

2Tim 2:14-15 Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. **Ps 1:1-2 Blessed is the person** who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the Law of the Lord, & on His Law he meditates day & night.

4. **Why do God's children consider Him and His word?**

Mat 22:36-37 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’... **John 14:21** The one who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, **John 14:15** If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1John 2:4-6, 5:2-3 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, & the truth is not in him; but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected... By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and follow His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

5. What is the EVIDENCE someone loves God?

6. What is the EVIDENCE someone does not love God?

7. Why is EVIDENCE important?

1 John 2:4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him [God/Christ],” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

Mat 7:16-18 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

Gal 5:19-23 Now the deeds [fruit] of the flesh are evident,...sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, & things like these, ...I forewarn you,...those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Heb 12:15-17 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that there be no sexually immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

2Cor 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Heb 12:3 Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or discouraged in your souls.

8. What did Jesus endure from sinners?

9. What does hostility mean?

HOSTILITY: The actions of an open enemy; aggression; attacks of an enemy.

10. How were people hostile to Jesus?

John 10:31-33 The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. Jesus replied to them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" The Jews answered Him, "We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God."

Mark 6:2-3 "Where did this Man learn these things, and what is this wisdom that has been given to Him, & such miracles as these performed by His hands? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are His sisters not here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

Mat 12:22-24 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to Jesus, and He healed him so that the man who was unable to speak talked and could see. And all the crowds were amazed and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

Heb 12:3 Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or discouraged in your souls.

11. God does not want us to grow _____?

12. God does not want us to be _____ in our souls?

13. Based on verse 3, how do you not grow weary & be discouraged in your soul?

14. When you start to grow weary do you consider Jesus & his suffering?

15. When you start to feel discouraged do you consider Jesus & his suffering?

16. Why do God's children have hostile people in their life?

John 15:18-19 If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

17. Do you belong to God or the world? Evidence? What / Who do you love?

18. In general, do you receive hostility or friendship from the world [Follow Jesus]?

19. In our sufferings what has God promised us? Believe Him? Actions?

John 14:15-17, 16:33 If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, & he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,...In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

2Cor 1:3-6 Praise be to the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion & the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ...

Pro 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Heb 12:4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

20. Does verse 4 apply to us specifically? Why?

21. The author says the Hebrews have not resisted to the point of what? Did Jesus?

22. Is the author saying, the Hebrews had not resisted sin on a spiritual level?

23. How do we experience “death” with regards to our resistance to it (sin)?

Luke 9:23-24 Then Jesus said..., “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Gal 5:16-18 But I say, walk by the Spirit, & you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do [Fleshly desires]. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

24. Are there people who also experience physical death because they resist sin?

MARTYR: One who, by his death [murdered], bears witness to the truth of the gospel. To be a martyr signifies only to witness the truth of Christ.

Rev 2:13, Acts 12:2, 7:59 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells...Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword...And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God

Rev 6:9-11 ...I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God & for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"...

25. What is the purpose(s) of a cross in the Bible?

Mat 28:5 But the angel said "...I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

26. How did Jesus experience "death" in a spiritual and physical way?

John 5:30 ...I do not seek My own will [desires] but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Philippians 2:8 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of then cross.

27. Have you experienced "death" in a spiritual way? A physical way? When? Why?

John 3:15 ...whoever trusts in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

1Pet 4:1-3 ...since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—...

Heb 12:5 you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons (children):

28. What had the Hebrews forgotten?

29. What does the word exhortation mean?

EXHORTATION:

1. **Emboldening** another in **belief or course of action**; encouragement.
2. Act of **consoling in trouble**; comfort; consolation.
3. An **encouraging word** and/or appeal.
30. The exhortation speaks to the Hebrews as to _____?
31. Do you believe this exhortation is also to us? Why? 2Tim 3:16-17

THE EXHORTATION:

Pro 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord corrects him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

1. Do not despise the Lord's _____.
2. Do not be weary of the Lord's _____.
3. The Lord _____ him whom He _____.

Heb 12:6 "My son, do not despise the discipline of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He discipline [corrects], And scourges every son whom He receives."

DISCIPLINE: **Correction**; chastisement; punishment intended to **correct** crimes or errors.

REBUKE: To chasten; to punish; to **afflict for correction**.

CORRECT: To bring back or attempt to bring back to a proper state in respect to morals; to chastise; **to correct**.

SCOURGE: To punish with severity; to chastise; to afflict for sins or faults, and **with the purpose of correction**.

Heb 12:6 My son, do not despise the correction of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are corrected by Him; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, And scourges every son whom He receives.

32. God's children do not despise the correction of the Lord. True or False?
33. God's children are not discouraged when corrected by the Lord. True or False?
34. The Lord corrects those He loves. True or False?
35. The Lord scourges every son He receives. True or False?
36. Does the Lord always have to scourge His children (sin)? Why?

1Cor 11:31. "But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged."

37. Who are the true children of God [those He receives]?

John 1:11-13 ...as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Rom 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1John 3:9-11 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,

38. If you are God's child you will be disciplined by Him. True or False?

39. If you are disciplined by God, you are loved by God. True or False?

40. Who does God love like He loves Jesus?

Luke 3:22 "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

John 5:20 "For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing."

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments & keeps them, it is he who loves Me. & he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, & I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

41. Based on Scripture who loves Jesus?

42. Those who love Jesus are loved by Whom?

1John 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.