



The Book of Hebrews Faith for Tough Times

The saints of Hebrews chapter 11 knew the lessons of chapter 12. 'By faith' God will get me through tough times. Here are the two ways that He does it.

1. Faithful Endurance *Heb 12:1-3*

Metaphor: Running a race

(a) They did it—so can I: Strengthened by the example of those who have gone before us. [See Heb 11:8-40]

(b) Getting in shape: It's not just our sin that slows us down—but everything that distracts us from the race.

(c) Run your own race: I need to run MY race—the one set before me—not someone else's race. I can't run my son's or wife's or any other's race than my own.

(d) Getting your second wind: [:2] All runners know about the 'second wind.' That wonderful infusion of strength to take you the rest of the way.

(1) Looking: [:2] The Greek here means, "To look away from all distractions." And—look to the finish line.

(2) Author and finisher: [:2] Only Jesus can be our faith-pioneer and also our faith-finisher. **Why? For the JOY!** And, we are the JOY He saw. Now, He is our JOY that we see—and like Jesus who finished what His Father sent Him to do—so will we.

(3) Do the math: [:3] The word 'consider' in Greek lit. meant to add up a column of figures to get a grand total. What do you get when you add up all that Jesus did in His life and death?

2. Faithful Learning *Heb 12:4-13*

Metaphor: Fatherly discipline **Chastening:** This Greek word 'paidea' is translated 'instruction,' 'warning,' 'correction,' 'training,' and 'discipline'. It's root means 'a child.'

(a) Why me God? So why am I going through all of these trials and tests? Is it just Satan attacking me or is there something else going on—**Like my Heavenly Father is training me?**

(b) So what am I NOT doing? [:4-5]

(1) Not resisting: How much are we willing to suffer living the life of Christ? Shedding of blood is a TOTAL commitment!

(2) Not remembering: The preacher quotes from Proverbs 3:11-12 to remind us that God disciplines His children.

(c) I am a child of God: [:6-8] So how do you know? There are many ways, but one of them is that God will discipline you because He loves you. It's all about relationship.

(d) Trained by discipline: [:9-13] God has His own training program for each of us—it's designed just for me based on my current walk with Him.

(1) Partakers of His holiness: All of the discipline we go through has a single purpose: That we be partakers of His holiness (His righteousness). This is NOT about salvation but it is about our sanctification (becoming like Him—being formed into His image).

(2) Partakers of His strength: [:12-13] So, 'by faith' receive His strength for your hands (the work) and for you knees (your stand in Christ) and your feet (your walk in Christ).

Hebrews 12:1-13 (NKJV)

Faithful Endurance

1 Therefore we also, 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,

2 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.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Faithful Learning

4 You have **not yet resisted** to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 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; **6** For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." [*Proverbs 3:11-12*]

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 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.

11 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.

12 Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.