

## The Epistle to the Hebrews

Hebrews 12:1-29

- Questions

1. What does the author encourage his readers to do based upon the OT examples of faith in Chapter 11 (12:1)?
2. Who, in addition to the OT faithful, are the readers to look to for their example and why (12:2-3)?
3. What were the readers experiencing, who allowed this, and why (12:4-6)?
4. What does chastening indicate (12:7) and what does a lack of chastening indicate (12:8)?
5. What attitude toward God were the readers to have in response to their chastening (12:9)?
6. What useful benefit or profit in chastening comes “afterward” (12:10-11)?
7. What were the readers to do toward one another during times of chastening (12:12-13)?
8. What were the readers to do (12:14) and what were they to avoid (12:15-17) in order to keep from falling short of the grace of God?
9. How does the author describe the earthly Mt. Sinai – the mountain that Christians do not come to (12:18-21)?
10. How does the author describe the heavenly Mt. Zion – the mountain that Christians do come to (12:22-24)?
11. What does the author encourage his readers not to do and why (12:25)?
12. What would happen to those things that shook at Mt. Sinai and what would happen to those things which are not shaken at Mt. Zion (12:26-28)?
13. What kind of service are Christians to offer God and why (12:28-29)?

- Digging Deeper

1. Who or what is the “cloud of witnesses” in 12:1?
2. What OT scriptures are referenced in Hebrews 12:5-6, 12:20, 12:21, and 12:26?
3. Where in the OT is the story of Esau selling his birthright and then later desiring his father’s blessing (12:16-17)? How did Esau act differently than the faithful of Hebrews 11?
4. Where in the OT is the story of the fearful activities surrounding Mt. Sinai (12:18-21)?
5. What is Mt. Zion (12:22; 2 Sam. 5:7; Psa. 2:6; Isa. 2:2-4; 28:16; Mic. 4:2; Gal. 4:26)?

- Applications for Today

1. The Christian life is like a race; not a short sprint, but a long-distance marathon requiring steadfastness and endurance. Sin weighs down the Christian and impedes his running (12:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:24-27).
2. The cross (toil) comes before the crown (reward) for both Jesus and his followers (12:2; 1 Pet. 1:6-9; 5:10).
3. Chastening or discipline is good for us (12:4-11; Jas. 1:2-4, 12).
4. Christians need to support and encourage each other during difficult times (12:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:14).
5. The devil can use division, worldliness, bitterness and immorality to cause a Christian to fall short of the grace of God (12:14-17; Jas. 3:13 – 4:4).
6. Contrary to denominational teaching, it is possible to fall from God’s grace (12:15; Gal. 5:4).
7. A “root of bitterness” can spring up and influence us for evil (12:15; Deut. 29:18-19).
8. There is no escaping God’s judgment when we turn away from him (12:25; Heb. 2:3).
9. We need great respect and reverence toward God to listen to his word and serve him faithfully (12:25-28; Rom. 11:20; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 15:4).
10. God is love, but he has a side to him that is severe (12:29; Rom. 11:22; 2 Thess. 1:8).