

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 14-Surrendering to God and His Righteous Plan

Focus: Hebrews 12:1-29

- **Enduring hardships of this life and faith, by Faith (v.1-4)**
 - *We have a great “cloud of witnesses” who have come before us! There’s a whole list of people who have gone through difficulties before us for their faith. We should remember their example and then take courage to run the race that is set before us with patience and endurance!*
 - *And let us keep in the center of our mind and focus, Jesus, who went through many things in this life. He suffered because of sinners. He suffered even their spit in His face; even their laughs, and they’re mocking; even their beating of Him and stripping Him of His clothes; even their crown of thorns, and finally their nailing to a wooden cross; He took it patiently and quietly, and remained faithful to God to the very end, even to death on a cross. If Jesus did so, then by His grace, we can endure hardships in this life and be overcomers through Christ and His power! **“All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** (2 Timothy 3:12).*
 - **We must always keep our eyes on Jesus who can transform our lives!** By beholding Him we will be changed (See 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)! We should also **“lay aside every weight” (v.1)**, and **“the sin, which does so easily ensnare us.”** Whatever kind of weights are in our life which are holding us back, we should get rid of! **We should consider, what is in our way? What is preventing us from developing our characters as we should? Is it the kind of music, or TV, or reading that we are putting in our lives? Is it contrary to God and His holiness? Are these things a “weight” in our lives that present a contrary influence to holiness, godliness, and righteous in our lives?** Let us now eliminate them!
- **We need to learn how to take the discipline of God, as a loving and concerned parent (v.5-13)**
 - *The Bible says in Proverbs, “Whoever spares the rod hates his child...” (Proverbs 13:24). Correction and discipline must be made so that a right character can be formed! If we fail to discipline in a correct way then children will fail to develop as they should and their character will be a very terrible and ugly mess as they grow older! Those who take on the responsibility of raising kids must also take on the responsibility of disciplining them and of guiding them in the right way. This is so essential! The Bible tells us that Bishops or Pastors must know how to rule their own house well, and to discipline their children, otherwise, how can they possibly manage and correct the church of God? (See 1 Timothy 3:3,4). Eli, a priest in the Old Testament times was charged with the sin or crime of not disciplining his children. And because of his sinful neglect, his children turned out to be horrible sinful monsters who were deserving of death and of judgment from God—finally, they got what was coming to them too (ref.1 Samuel 2:12, 22, 34; 3:13).*
 - **God is not an irresponsible Father! He knows how to discipline and He will.** God’s word will speak very directly against our sin! We will be rebuked for our sins if we are living in them. We should not despise the Lord’s discipline or His leading, but rather, we should accept it as a

needed part of life and also **as His love and care to save us from death!** Many do not come to the light of God because they do not want their sins to be checked! That is a very sad fact and they will be lost because they have rejected God's fatherhood over all of us (See **John 3:19-21**). God promises to rebuke and chasten those who He loves and cares for (Revelation 3:19). We should accept this, submit to God, and surrender to Him willingly. The results of resisting would be tragic.

- (v.11-13) *Maybe we don't enjoy it all at the time, but the result afterwards is very good and sweet, so let us accept it and be healed.*
- **Do not sell Heaven cheap or Trade eternity for even one sin unrepented of (v.14-17)**
 - *Do not sell out on Jesus by some cheap sin or behavior. Don't be like Judas for sold out Christ for 30 pieces of silver; how cheap a thing for trading out eternal life! Do not be like Esau who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup and could not get it back no matter what (Genesis 25:33). Some things, once you sell them out, may just be gone forever. Esau could not find any way to get back what he had lost and sold out! Let us be so very careful not to sell out on Christ Jesus! Paul also prayed and strove that such would not happen in his life (1 Cor. 9:27). Let us not live a life of sin or practice any particular sin which would surely disqualify us for the purity and holiness of heaven.*
- **We should have a much bigger concept of God and His Eternal Power and Purpose! (v.18-24)**
 - God is holy and we should not tempt Him! It would be a fearful thing to fall into the hands of His judgment! God sets boundaries and we should not cross over them!
 - Today we have not come to that burning mountain of old, but we have come to Jesus, the very Holy One of God himself! The very Judge of all! Let us come before Him with great reverence and respect!
 - (v.18-21) These verses are talking specifically about Mount Sinai and the time when God revealed Himself there in fire during the days of Moses! This was the time when His first covenant was made, while Israel was under the leadership of Moses (See Exodus 19 and 20 for details about those events).
 - (v.22-26) In these verses the author is making a comparison and contrast to the days of old Mount Sinai and the first covenant. It is being explained that we have now come to Christ and to the Heavenly Mount Zion, the City of the Living God. We are come to Jesus, and it is by His blood, and by His word, and by His New Covenant alone that we shall be able to live. If none could resist His word and power under the first covenant, but were made as cowards under His Holy presence, then how much more under His mighty power and presence at this time should we decide to surrender to Him and to obey His voice! Our God is a consuming fire! We should respect and obey Him! Surrender all before it's too late (2 Peter 3:9-14; Rev. 6:17).
- **Our God is "a consuming fire" to sin, and we must respect His Holiness(v.25-29)**
 - If we do not consider His holiness and His fearful speaking from Heaven, or His fiery presence then surely we will not receive the sanctification that is necessary in our lives! Let us fear the Lord and reverence Him!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to lovingly surrender to and follow Jesus Christ and His word? _____