

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 3/6-7/2023 Hebrews 11:30 -12:11

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrsnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE CCCM FAMILY ROOM

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Chapter 11 – By Faith They Overcame – vs. 30-40. Chapter 12 – The Race of Faith – vs. 1-2; The Discipline of God – vs. 3-11!

- **Hebrews, chapter eleven – Continuing the subject of *THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH*.**
- **The central design of this chapter is to show and encourage us of the patience, endurance, of those who, in former ages, endured by faith before they received the fulfillment of God's promise. Do not think that God is asking something extraordinary of you that He has not asked of His people all through the ages! It has always required faith. It has always required endurance!**

- *(Heb 11:6) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
- *(Heb 11:29) By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.*

Heb 11:30 By faith the walls of Jericho (30 ft. high, 15 ft. thick) fell down after they were encircled for seven days.

- *(Jos 6:15-16) But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. [16] And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!*
- **Consider the faith of Joshua in selling that seemingly ridiculous battle plan** to all his generals! Joshua knew what God was saying! His faith was not in understanding, but in obeying, in taking action, in doing, what God has told him! We need to remember that God always initiates, and we are always to follow!

Heb 11:31 By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

- **Word had spread how the Red Sea was parted, then destroying the Egyptian army**, when God brought the children out of Egypt, and how these people were coming into the land. When the spies came into Rahab's house, she spoke, *(Jos 2:9,11,21) and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. [11] And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. [21] Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.*
- **So, believing in faith, she made a deal with the spies**, that when the children of Israel would take the city of Jericho, that she and her family, putting herself in enormous risk, by publicly identifying with the Israelites, would be spared by putting a scarlet rope out her window! When the city is taken, whoever is in the house will be spared. When Jericho was taken, they were slain, except for Rehab who by faith, perished not with them, that believed not, when she received the spies with peace. If a pagan Gentile could do it, surely we believers can do it, having all His promises already fulfilled!

Heb 11:32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

- **All of the men listed in this verse held a position of power or authority**, but none of them is praised for his personal status or abilities. Instead, they are recognized for what each one had accomplished by faith in God. They are not listed chronologically, but are listed in pairs with the more important member mentioned first.
- **We see Gideon, having faith to obediently take action in using only 300 Israelites** to go against and to defeat 130,000 Midianites! We must remember it is not in numbers, but in our obedience to Him! Gideon could do it! The Jews at the time of Hebrews could do it! So, we too, can do it!
- **He is going through the Book of Judges.** Now, it's interesting, he says Barak instead of Deborah, because Barak, said to Deborah. I won't go into battle unless you go with me. It may have been that nothing would be a greater satisfaction to Barak than to have the prophetess, who had received from God, the promise of success, to go with him to animate the soldiers and to be

consulted as an oracle upon all occasions. (**Jdg 4:10**) *And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.*

- **Samson, (Jdg 16:28b,30)** *"O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God. [30] Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.*
- **Jephthah** (even being an illegitimate child, because of his faith was used mightily in defeating the Ammonites), *of David also*. Oh, the things of David, you know. But yet he just gets honorable mention here. None of his deeds or his acts.
- **And Samuel!** Just think of his rejection and disappointment, being the first prophet of Israel, in Israel's desire to have an earthly king rule over them. Oh, what a great man and yet, just honorable mention, *and of the prophets: May we likewise as these Old Testament saints, because of our faithfulness, be used as we are faithful and remain faithful to God!* To never quit because of hardship and persecution!

Heb 11:33 *who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

- **Who through faith subdued kingdoms** - Joshua, the judges, David, and others. **Worked righteousness** - Righteous kings like David, Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah. **Obtained promises**. Abraham, Moses, David, and Solomon. **Stopped the mouths of lions**. Samson, David, and Daniel.

Heb 11:34 *quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

- **Quenched the violence of fire**. No doubt, referring to the three Hebrew children, *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*. (Hebrew names - Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah)
- **Escaped the edge of the sword**, (probably *David, Elijah, Elisha*), *out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*
- **Out of weakness were made strong**. Ehud, Jael, Gideon, Samson, and Hezekiah.

Heb 11:35 *Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.*

- **Now, here are the great and glorious things that were wrought by men and women of faith.**
- **Women received their dead**. The widow of Zarephath, and the woman of Shunem.
- **Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance**. The word indicates that they were beaten to death while strapped to some sort of rack.
- **That they might obtain a better resurrection**. The deliverance from certain death or near death would be like returning from the dead, but would not be the promised resurrection. This was especially true of those who had died and were raised. The first time they were raised from the dead was resuscitation, not the true and glorious final resurrection.

Heb 11:36 *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.*

- **Still others: Jeremiah, Joseph, Micaiah, Elisha, Hanani, and so many of the prophets.**

Heb 11:37 *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—*

- **They were sawn in two**. Jerome believes that that was a reference to *Isaiah*. *They were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being*

destitute, afflicted, tormented. Some of them waxed valiantly in fight. Some of them put to flight, the armies of the aliens. They received their dead back to life and all of this, but yet others, having the same faith, went through suffering. They went through torture for their faith. Having faith is not a guarantee that we are not going to suffer.

- **Here were men of faith who suffered. Here are men of faith who were delivered,** but others who suffered. God may give you deliverance. God, in His sovereignty, may allow us to suffer. We do not understand it.
- **Why, often times, do godly people suffer? Faith seems, is manifested in suffering** as much as and often times, more, in suffering, than it is in glorious victory. My ability to accept the suffering, trusting in God. God, if You want to deliver me—fine! It takes greater faith to hold onto God, when you do not understand the circumstances and why you are going through the hurt and the pain. But to hang onto God in those circumstances, really is a mark of greater faith than if everything is just going well and smooth, all just falling into order and your life is always just so easy and blessed! Yes, that's wonderful, but it takes more faith to hold on to the Lord, to believe and trust in the time of suffering.
- **When John Bunyan was facing prison, he prayed, God, I would appreciate it if You would free me** from prison, from going to prison. When the sentence is given, I would love to have You keep me from prison, but if you have a ministry for me in prison, Your will be done.
- **Consider how this faith chapter speaks against the positive confession, prosperity doctrines,** that teach it is God's will for all believers, if they have enough faith, they can escape hardships, persecutions, sicknesses, and death!

Heb 11:38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

- **These people were holy!** They were righteous! They walked so closely to God, the world wasn't worthy of them. And yet *they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. (1Ki 18:4) For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.*

Heb 11:39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

Heb 11:40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

- **They all believed God. They all had a good report, a good testimony!** They endured all kinds of things. They had all kinds of victory, yet they did not receive the promise. The promise of what? The promise of the Kingdom of God, the promise of the Messiah! They were looking forward to Him. They believed in Him, but they did not receive the promise. Just that how faithful they were, having just a glimpse of something that would happen in the future! We have received the promise! Oh, how much more faith then, that we should have! The Messiah has come!
- **The Old Testament saints all died in faith, not having received the promise.** They were not able yet to enter into heaven. But when Jesus came and paid the price, the perfect, complete sacrifice, once and for all. When He died, he descended to where Abraham was comforting those in the promises of God. How fitting that Abraham should be the one. The man of faith—the one who is held up above the others as the man of faith! It was promised to him that through his faith, all of the nations of the earth would be blessed! He believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. He was, no doubt, there saying, do not worry, God is going to keep His promise. The Messiah will come!
- **God has provided a better thing for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

They could not come into the completed state of salvation under the Old Testament laws of sacrifices. It was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin. They could not enter into heaven before the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus! They were being kept in a holding cell, so to speak.

- **If we will but yield ourselves to the glorious perfection truths of our epistle, the perfection of our High Priest, and His work, and press on into it, He to whom it has been given to work His work in us in the power of an endless life, saving completely, will reveal in us that better and perfect thing as we have never yet known!**

Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (martus – testifier, witness) 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,

- **These men bear witness, testifying to us, they are witnesses in that sense, of what God will do** through a person who believes and trusts Him. Their witness to us is of the faithfulness of God and men who have put their trust and their confidence in God and the rewards that they have received as a result of that. The runner is inspired by the godly examples those saints set during their lives. The great crowd is not comprised of spectators but rather is made up of ones whose past life of faith encourages others to live that way
- **Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.** It doesn't mean that they are in heaven looking down and watching us. I'm certain that they have far more interesting things to do in heaven, than looking down and watching us. There is nothing in the Scriptures that indicate that those that are in heaven are aware of us. We can't say for certain, but there is nothing in the Scriptures that would indicate that they are aware of us, possibly so, possibly not. But you can't make any case for it.
- **Let us.** The reference is to those Hebrews who had made a profession of Christ, but had not gone all the way to full faith. They had not yet begun the race, which starts with salvation. The writer has invited them to accept salvation in Christ and join the race.
- **Lay aside every weight.** Differing from the "sin" mentioned next, this refers to the main encumbrance weighing down the Hebrews which was the Levitical system with its stifling legalism. An athlete would strip away every piece of unnecessary clothing before competing in the race. The outward things emphasized by the Levitical system not only impede; they also "ensnare."
- **And the sin, which so easily ensnares us.** In this context, this focuses first on the particular sin of unbelief—refusing to turn away from the Levitical sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, as well as other sins cherished by the unbeliever.
- **Let us run with endurance,** the steady determination to keep going, regardless of the temptation to slow down or give up, because **of these men of faith and their accomplishments through faith.**
- **The race (agon), which is the** athletic metaphor presents the faith-filled life as a demanding, grueling effort. The English word agony is derived from the Greek word used here.
- **That is set before us.** The Christian life is likened to a person running a race, and the importance of laying down or laying aside every weight. When you are running a race, you want to be just as light as possible, clothing and shoes and all.
- **(1Co 9:24-25) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. [25] And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.**

Heb 12:2 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.

- **Looking unto Jesus! Keep focused on the goal!** They were to fix their eyes on Jesus as the object of faith and salvation. **Looking.** (Act 7:55-56) *But he (Stephen the martyr), being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, [56] and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"* But there is more than example in this phrase; there is empowerment. That is what we should see! We are to look to Jesus because He can do what these others cannot do. They can inspire us, but He empowers us! Moment by moment, day by day, week by week, year by year, if we learn to look to Him we find strength imparted to us. That is the secret!
- **The author** (originator or preeminent example), **and finisher** (perfecter, having the idea of carrying through to perfect completion) *of our faith*; God has given to every man a measure of faith. It comes to us from Him. He is the author of the faith, but not just the author but the finisher too! What God has begun; He will continue to do. We have that kind of confidence in the Lord. He who has begun a good work in you, will complete it. He is the author and the finisher. The Lord hasn't brought you this far to just dump you now! But He is going to complete His work in our lives! He is the beginning and the end—the Alpha and the Omega. He is *the author and the finisher of our faith.*
- **Who for the joy that was set before Him! Jesus is also our example** in running the race, The joy of winning, the joy of victory, who for the joy that was set before Him, and with the case of Jesus, it was the joy of being able to grant to us the forgiveness of sin. Jesus persevered so that He might receive the *joy of accomplishment of the Father's will and exaltation!* (**Psa 16:9-11**) *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. [10] For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. [11] You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
- **Endured the cross, despising the shame, Many things in life are unpleasant,** intolerable, but we are called to endure them. Jesus endured the cross. Though He despised the shame, but He did it for the joy that was set before Him. The joy of being able to bring you into the fellowship with God by granting you the forgiveness of sin! I think that Jesus really loved to say, your sins are forgiven you! It made the Pharisees angry, but I think Jesus just loved to say it!
- **For the joy of being able to provide a righteous basis for the forgiveness of sin.** By His taking our sins and then taking the penalty for our sins, He has now a righteous basis to forgive us our sins. For that joy, set before Him of being able to forgive our sins so that we can have fellowship with God! He endured the cross! That's what the cross was all about! It was His taking the penalty, our penalty, for sin. His death was for you!
- **It is significant that when Jesus was crucified, the Father planned** that He should be crucified between two thieves. That was part of God's plan. Isaiah spoke about it long before Jesus was ever born, some 700 years plus. (**Isa 53:12b**) *And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.* That was the prophecy concerning the crucifixion. So, we know that it was a part of God's plan, that He be crucified with the thieves.
- **That is a part of the purpose, at least, for God allowing His Son to be crucified** between the two thieves, was in order to be able *to enjoy the joy that was set before Him.* When the one thief said, Lord, when You come into the kingdom, will You remember me? And Jesus being able to comfort him, saying, today you will be with Me in paradise!
- **That is what His death is all about, that we can be with Him in paradise!** He had the first taste of that joy, even while He was in the midst of suffering on the cross, despising the shame—the jeering of the crowd. In the midst of that, He had a foretaste of the joy that was set before

Him!

- **We look ahead and Jesus is our example here, to the joy that the Lord has set before us**, of spending eternity with the Lord in the Kingdom of God! It is almost indescribable, in fact, that is what Peter said (*1Pe 1:8-9*) *whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, [9] receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.* The things that God has prepared for those that love Him!
- **Paul the apostle, had a short little visit into heaven.** As he wrote about it, (*2Co 12:2-5*) *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. [3] And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—[4] how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. [5] Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.*
- **It's so far beyond anything that is earthly, that there has never been any kind of a** vocabulary developed that could adequately describe what is there for you and for me in the heavenly kingdom! *For the joy that was set before Him.* And thus, He has pointed out to us as an example, as we go through the trials, look ahead, for the present suffering, Paul said, is not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed!
- **He endured the cross, though He despised the shame and has set down at the right hand of the throne of God.** As we were told earlier in the Book of Hebrews, He is just waiting until the Father makes His enemies His footstool and turns the kingdom over to Him.

Do Not Grow Weary

Heb 12:3 For consider Him who endured such hostility (opposition, contradiction) from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

- **Jesus is the supreme example of willingness to suffer in obedience to God.** He faced hostility and endured even the cruel cross. The same opposition is faced by all who follow Him. (*2Ti 3:12*) *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.* Believers' pressures, exhaustion, and persecutions are as nothing compared to Christ's. (*Gal 6:9*) *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*
- **Also, we see such hostility. Here is a man who lived a perfect life.** A man who was so compassionate, so loving, that He was always reaching out to help those in need. He was always bringing joy, bringing healing, bringing encouragement! As the disciples testified of Him, He went around doing good, healing all manner of sicknesses. And yet, the religious leaders were so angered by Him, that they did not just want to see Him die, they wanted to see Him suffer to the maximum. That's why they took the case to Pilate, because they wanted that shameful death of crucifixion.
- **At times, when we are trying to live the right life, trying to do the right thing,** it seems to sometimes, blow up in our face. We think, that is not fair! I'm trying to do the right thing and look what happened! Look at what they have done? Well, the writer says, just consider Jesus! You know, you are not nearly as righteous as He is, and yet look what they did to Him! Consider *Him who endured such hostility from the sinners*, that we not be weary and faint in our minds, when we are going through trials or testings or when we are, you know, being falsely accused. Consider Him!

Heb 12:4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

- **The writer is saying, you think you've got it bad, show me your scars.** If the writer was Paul and I believe he was, said, (*2Co 11:23-25*) *Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. [24] From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. [25] Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have*

been in the deep. These things that all leave their scars, their marks. I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus Christ. But now, he's saying to them, look, you haven't *yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

- **Surely we have had it easy! When you read of the suffering Christians** in the Moslem controlled countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, where they have the religious control, the beatings, the persecutions, the torture, today, that Christians endure!
- **In China, under the Communistic rule, those members of the House Church,** who refuse to submit to what they feel the compromising liberal Three Self Movement, how they are imprisoned. How they are tortured! We have it so easy! And yet if someone looks at us sort of askew, when we make mention of Jesus, we, you know, get all upset and we feel oh, I've been persecuted! But you have not yet resisted unto blood in your striving against sin.

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING (*paideia* – correction, discipline, nurture- the act of providing guidance for responsible living) **OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM;**

- **You have forgotten the exhortation.** Here the writer recalls and expounds (**Pro 3:11-12**) *My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; [12] For whom the LORD loves, He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.* Trials and sufferings in the Christian's life come from God, who uses them to educate and discipline believers by such experiences. Such dealings are evidence of God's love for His own children.
- **He has directed His people how they ought to behave** under all their afflictions, avoiding the extremes that many run into. They must not despise the chastening of the Lord. They must not make light of afflictions, being stupid and insensible under them, for they are the hand and rod of God, and His rebukes for sin. Those who make light of affliction make light of God and make light of sin. Also, they must not faint when they are rebuked; they must not despond and sink under their trial, nor worry and despair, but bear up with faith and patience. If they run into either of these extremes, it is a sign they have forgotten their heavenly Father's advice and exhortation, which He has given them in true and tender affection.

Heb 12:6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

- **It is important that we realize that the chastening of the Lord is never punitive.** It is always corrective! God does not punish us. Jesus took our punishment on the cross! He corrects us! There is quite a difference between punishment and correction. We who are parents, know how important correction is, for our children. If they have a habit of running out into the street without looking both ways, we warn them about doing that! We know it can be deadly! When our children have a tendency to just carelessly run out in the street, without looking both ways, we correct them. Often the correction is with maybe a swat, or maybe it's taking away certain privileges, it is a move on our part to correct this bad habit.
- **It's interesting how our reaction is, to correction.** When you were a child, before they had all of these child protection laws, and you misbehaved and you got a spanking for it, what went through your mind as your father left the room and you were lying there crying on the bed? I know with me, it was "nobody loves me"! And yet it was because of love, but you so misunderstood it. When God corrects us, chastises or scourges us, so often the mindset is, "God doesn't love me! Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! It is because He loves you that He has chastised you! It is a sign of His love! We need to realize that God chastises us because He loves us. It is not punishment! It is correction.
- **Do not despise the chastening of the Lord, or faint when you are rebuked of Him.** For whom

the Lord loves, He chastens. It is a sign of His love! And He *scourges every son whom He receives*.

Heb 12:7 *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

- **If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons. Chastening, discipling, prove our sonship.** Every boy knows that his father does not discipline the neighbor children, he disciplines you! The reason is because you are his son. God does not discipline the children of darkness either, He disciplines His own. Therefore, if we have discipline, if we are going through struggles and problems, then thank God! Even with our earthly fathers, he points out, we gave them respect during times of discipline.
- **The chastening of the Lord should bring great comfort to you.** If you could get by with your sins, look out! You are in big trouble! Isn't it interesting how that so oftentimes, other people do it, and they get by with it? You think, they got by with it, I'll do it. Then, you get caught! You think, that is not fair, you know! They do it and nothing happens. I do it and I get caught! Oh, rejoice! You are a son! If you were not a son, He would let you get by with it, too! But because He loves you, and He knows that this is harmful. He knows that it can be deadly, He chastens. It is not a sign of God hating you, but of God loving you! Whom the Lord loves, He chastens and scourges every son who He receives. So, if you endure the chastening, God is dealing with you as a son.
- **For what son is there whom a father does not chasten?** Our Father is interested in us. Because He loves us, He chastens us. Thus, we are sons. Because all people are imperfect and need discipline and training, all true children of God are chastened at one time or another, in one way or another. *For what son is there whom a father does not chasten?*

Heb 12:8 *But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.*

- **You do not belong to Him, if you never meet with anything, from the Lord!** He uses chastening, which is adapted to correct your faults; to subdue your temper; to chide your wanderings. If one would never experience that, it would prove that you were in the condition of illegitimate children, cast off and disregarded by their father. Therefore, going back to the beginning, despise not, the chastening of the Lord! It's proof that you are His child!

Heb 12:9 *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?*

- **Our earthly fathers corrected us, and we respected them.** How much more should we not respect our heavenly *Father and live*? Be in subjection, which is respect for God, being in submission to His will and law. Those who willingly receive the Lord's chastening will have a richer, more abundant life. (*Psa 119:165*) *Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble.*

Heb 12:10 *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.*

- **God's correction is no condemnation. His children may at first fear and cry out as (*Job 10:2*)** *I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me.* But this is so far from being the design of God to His own people that He chastens them now, (*1Co 11:32*) *But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.* He does it to prevent the death and destruction of their souls, that they may live to God, and be like God, and forever with him!

- **But He for our profit.** Imperfect human fathers discipline imperfectly; but God is perfect! Therefore, His discipline is perfect and always for the spiritual good of His children!
- **God is wanting to work His holiness in us.** For the Scripture says, (*Lev20:26*) *And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.* The purposes of God are always for our good, for our holiness, for our living the right life! I believe that there is no way you can become a fully grown child of God living in fellowship with Him, except through the discipline of God, which is the main thought behind *holiness*,

Heb 12:11 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.

- ***Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful.*** That is so true!
- ***Nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*** When I'm going through a period when God is chastening me, it's no fun! But oh, when you look at the result of it! When you look at the outcome. There, it is wonderful. It is glorious! What God is able to accomplish through the chastening processes in our lives.
- **Affliction produces peace, by producing more righteousness;** for the fruit of righteousness is peace. If the pain of the body contribute thus to the peace of the mind, and short present affliction produce blessed fruits of a long continuance, we have no reason to fret, faint, or despair under it, but that our great desire and concern is that our chastening may be endured with patience, improving in us to a greater degree of holiness! Can I see that? Is that my response to His chastening?
- **Lord, help us in our attitude toward the chastising. May we not misunderstand the purpose.** But may we know Lord, that is just a manifestation of Your love. That we are truly Your sons and because You love us, You will not let us get by with our sin. Do whatever is necessary Lord, to keep us on the straight path!
- **Oh Thank You, LORD! Truly How Great Thou Art!**

CLOSING SONG:

HOW GREAT THOU ART – Stuart Hine, Shea (2.45/2:48)

*Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

*Refrain: Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee, How great thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul my Savior God to Thee! How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then
I shall bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art. (Refrain)*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Hebrews Chapter 12:12 – Chapter 13:25!