



The Perfecting Hope of God's Discipline

Lesson Fifty-One • Hebrews 12:3-11

Hebrews 10:19–13:19 Is the Last Major Section | Keep Moving Forward to God's Future Salvation...
by Persevering **FAITH** (Ch 11) in Perfecting **HOPE** (Ch 12) with Persisting **LOVE** (Ch 13)!

Connection Between Chapters 11 and 12

- Chapter 11 was all about **preserving FAITH!** Hebrews 11:1–12:1-2

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2)

- Chapter 12 is all about **perfecting HOPE!** Hebrews 12:1-29

"...we who have taken refuge...have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:18-20

Perfection in the Book of Hebrews

- **General Meaning:** Bring to completion by reaching the intended goal. In Hebrews, the "perfected" goal is **ENTERING** into God's holy presence!
- **Essentials of Perfection:** Possessing the **personal purity**, **priestly purity**, and **purposeful purity** to enjoy the privilege of directly entering God's presence in the Holy of holies!
- **Progressively Revealed in the Book of Hebrews**
 - Jesus **is perfected** as our Priest-King through His incarnation, His faithful obedience in life and death, His once-for-all-time sacrifice, and His resurrection, ascension, exaltation, and session at God's right hand. (2:10; 5:9; 7:28; 9:11-12)
 - We **have been perfected** by faith in Christ's perfection and **are being perfected** (progressively sanctified) until we enjoy our **future final perfection** of physically entering God's presence in resurrected bodies. (10:1, 14; 11:40; 12:2, 22-24)
 - Old Covenant believers, it seems, could not enjoy such perfection in heaven until Christ was perfected and completed His work to sit down next to the Father. They enjoy it **now** spiritually in heaven but **not yet** in resurrected bodies on earth. (11:39-40)
 - New Covenant believers **do enjoy such perfection on earth** for we can **now draw near** to God in heaven based on Christ's perfection and eternal priesthood but **not yet** in resurrected bodies. But in the future **both** Old Covenant **and** New Covenant believers will be **perfected together with resurrected bodies** like Christ and dwell in the presence of God's holiness in His unshakable Kingdom which will descend from heaven to earth in the Millennium and New Creation. (11:39-40; 12:22-24; see Revelation 19–22)

The Perfecting Hope of Persevering Faith in Jesus

Our heavenly Father, like He did with His own Son – Jesus, uses the **SUFFERING** of running the race to **DISCIPLINE** the faith of His "many sons" to persevere, so they will all increasingly become partakers in His holiness as they keep running with endurance and will ultimately be perfected to enter His holy presence in the Winner's Circle of the Holy of holies!

This "perfecting hope" is **ALREADY** ours if we **hold fast** to our confession of Jesus as our Priest-King and Big Brother!

The Perfecting Hope of God's Discipline Through Suffering

1. God's Discipline Is Our **PERFECTING** Hope! (12:3-6)

"Discipline" is parental training by both **CORRECTION** and **INSTRUCTION** for future **FORMATION!**

Discipline is not just for punishment but is ultimately for perfecting.

"Perfective" discipline trains us by taking us through **SUFFERING** to learn obedience, so we become partakers of holiness in God's presence.

Our discipline is both corrective and instructive, but for Jesus it was only instructive due to His sinless obedience!

- **JESUS** was perfected by God's discipline as Son. (v. 3)

"for consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

“Endured” is used **3x** in **12:1-3** and again in **v. 7!** Its only other use is in **10:32!**

Jesus both pioneered and perfected the hope of God’s discipline as Son!

Jesus Was Disciplined by the Father in Hope

1. He **LEARNED OBEDIENCE** as Son to be perfected as our eternal Priest-King! (2:10; 5:8)
2. He **MADE PAYMENT** for sin as both the once-for-all-time sacrifice and the Priest-King who has now perfected us to enter with Him into God’s presence. (5:8-10)

➤ **EVERY BELIEVER** is perfected by God’s discipline as His “sons.” (vv. 4-6)

1. Our **experience** of God’s discipline trains us to **RESIST** sin but we have yet to shed blood in doing so.
“You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;” (v. 4)

*Literally this is a **POSSIBILITY** and metaphorically this is a **NECESSITY!***

2. God’s **exhortation** about His discipline must be **REMEMBERED** in suffering. (Proverbs 3:11-12)

“and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ‘My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov’d by Him; for those whom the Lord loves he disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.’” (vv.5-6)

Failing to Remember the Perfecting Hope of God’s Discipline

- Results in **being flippant** toward God in your suffering. *“do not regard lightly”*
- Results in **being tempted to faint** when suffering comes. *“nor faint”*
- Results in **being quick to forget** the Father’s love. *“for those whom the Lord loves he disciplines”*
- Results in **being prone to feel** the pain has no purpose. *“and He scourges every son whom He receives.”*

2. God’s Discipline Is Our **PURPOSEFUL** Hope! (12:7-11)

“It is for discipline that you endure;” (v. 7a)

➤ Hard times of perfecting discipline **PROVE** the Father’s love for His own. (vv. 7-10)

1. Our **HEAVENLY** Father proves His love by disciplining His own sons.

“God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.” (vv. 7b-8)

2. Our **EARTHLY** fathers proved their love by disciplining their own.

“Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.” (vv. 9-10)

➤ Hard times of perfecting discipline accomplish God’s greater **PURPOSE**. (v. 11)

“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (v. 11)

First, it’s sorrowful, later it is **JOYFUL!** First, it’s painful, later it is **FRUITFUL!**

Always the cross of suffering before the crown of glory. 1 Peter 1:3-9; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Endure God’s Discipline Through Suffering **NOW** Like Jesus Did, Because It’s Our Confident Hope of Experiencing God’s Promise of His Perfected Outcome in the **NOT YET** with Jesus!

- When the race is hard and you have grown spiritual weary and are thinking about quitting, meditate on Jesus and all that He endured in going to the cross and finishing His race so you can finish yours faithfully.
- When God allows suffering to enter your life and you’re tempted to think He is unloving and uncaring, remember that suffering for being like Christ and remaining faithful to Him is proof of His fatherly love for you as His true son or daughter.
- When the pain is so deep and the loss so great that your life seems meaningless and purposeless, remember the Father has a perfecting purpose for your pain that will enable you to enter fully into the joy of His holy presence – *and that privilege is already yours right now as we draw near by persevering faith in Jesus and hold fast to perfecting hope that is anchored in Him!*