



Perfecting Hope and Our Weakness

Lesson Fifty-Two • Hebrews 12:12-13

Chapter 12 Is All About the Perfecting HOPE of Our 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!

But this “perfecting hope” is **ALREADY** ours if we *hold fast* to our confession of Jesus as our Priest-King and Big Brother!

“For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (v. 3)

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

For God to train your faith to persevere keep on running your race with endurance through the pain until you reach our perfected hope of entering God’s Winner’s Circle of His holy presence! (Paraphrase)

“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)

How to Help One Another in Our Weakness with Perfecting Hope

1. In Perfecting Hope STRENGTHEN One Another’s Hands and Knees!

“Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,” (v. 12)

This Is Not Just Personal but CONGREGATIONAL

We are to do this for ourselves and for one another and with one another!

Strengthening One Another as a Congregation

- Whenever and whoever’s hands have begun to droop, **STRENGTHEN** them!

1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11

- Whenever and whoever’s knees have begun to wobble, **STRAIGHTEN** them.

Mark 15:19; Luke 5:8; 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 21:5; Romans 11:4; 14:11; Ephesians 3:14; Philippians 2:10; Hebrews 12:12

*God’s people **RUN** on their knees!*

Isaiah 35 – *Israel’s future hope is our PERFECTED “Now-Not Yet” hope in Jesus seated in heaven!*

2. In Perfecting Hope STRAIGHTEN One Another’s Path!

“and make straight paths for your feet,” (v. 13a)

Proverbs 4:16 – *Listen to your heavenly Father when He SPEAKS just like His Son, Jesus, did to reach the Winner’s Circle!*

3. In Perfecting Hope SET One Another's Lameness!

"so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." (v. 13b LSB)

Malachi 1:8, 13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:5-6; 5:14-15; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

"...Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone." 1 Thessalonians 5:13-14

Exhort one another to draw near with persevering faith! (10:22)

Encourage one another to hold fast with perfecting hope! (10:23)

Engage one another to stir up one another with persisting love! (10:24-25)

4. In Perfecting Hope SUPPORT One Another to Stay in the Race!

"...but rather be healed." (v. 13b LSB)

"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:12-13

"let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:22-25

God's Perfecting Hope in Jesus Christ Is the Healing Balm for Our Fleshly Weakness and Sinfulness.

But we must gather together to apply the gospel to one another's lives as we keep running the race to the finish!