

## Daily Devotions (May 17-22, 2021)

### Hebrews 12:1-13

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. 4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. 5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said,

"My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you.

6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all

of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

12 So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. 13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

#### Monday, May 17th - Read Hebrews 12:1

Who are some of these "witnesses to the faith," the writer is writing about?

Which of these "witnesses to the faith" speaks the loudest to you, why?

#### Tuesday, May 18th - Read Hebrews 12:1-2

What can slow us down and trip us up? What is the fix for this?

What does it mean that Jesus "initiates" and "perfects" our faith?

**Wednesday, May 19th - Read Hebrews 12:3-6**

What is the difference between discipline and punishment?

Verse 6 seems to say that God punishes us (as His sons and daughters). However, God's "punishment" is corrective - never judgmental or vindictive. Why is this important to keep in mind?

**Friday, May 21st - Read Hebrews 12:10-11**

Think of a time that you were disciplined for something that you did as a child. Did you deserve the discipline? How did that discipline help you grow as a person?

How does the word "training" go hand-in-hand with "discipline?"

**Thursday, May 20th - Read Hebrews 12:7-9**

What does it mean if God disciplines us?

What does discipline encourage when future choices are presented? Why is God's discipline something we should be thankful for?

**Saturday, May 22nd - Read Hebrews 12:12-13**

When working with tools on a project or in the garden, what is the benefit of getting a new grip?

What "new grip" do you think the writer of Hebrews is speaking of in this line of the letter? Of what is he pleading with his readers to consider and believe?