



## Stay Focused

11.10.19 | Hebrews 12

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**Hebrews 12:1-4** *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, 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, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.*

“The moment you have a self at all, there is a possibility of putting yourself first – wanting to be the center – wanting to be God. In fact, that was the sin of Satan; and that was the sin he taught the human race.” C.S. Lewis

**1 Peter 1:6-8** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> **whom having not seen you love.***

As a Christian, we are called to *meditate* as much or more than we read.

**Joshua 1:8** *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.*

**Psalm 1:1-3** *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

**Psalm 4:4** *Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah*

**Psalm 19:14** *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.*

**Psalm 77:12** *I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.*

**1 Samuel 12:24** *Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*

**Romans 8:18** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

**2 Timothy 2:7** *Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.*

A sermon was never intended by God to end when the pastor dismissed the congregation.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 12:5-11** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup>For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives. <sup>7</sup>If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup>But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup>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? <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

The race analogy has three issues that hinder a believer's spiritual insight.

(1) Unresolved Conflict (2) Worldly Lifestyle (3) Un-Forgiveness

**Hebrews 12:12-17** Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: <sup>15</sup>looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Three things the author wants us to see...

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| 1. Look back and see Esau.                | <b>v16-17</b> |
| 2. Look up and see the Heavenly City.     | <b>v22-23</b> |
| 3. Look ahead and see the coming Kingdom. | <b>v28-29</b> |

**2 Corinthians 7** - The difference between worldly and godly repentance

**Hebrews 12 closes with 4 vital truths.**

- Heaven is reserved for all who are in Christ.
- God has something to say about how you do life.
- God will set up His kingdom.
- God is worthy to know, love, and serve.

**Hebrews 12:28-29** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.** <sup>29</sup>For our God is a consuming fire.