

Hebrews

Chapter Twelve

FAITH COMES BY HEARING: Read Chapter Twelve

SUMMARY: Verses 1-29

1. Christians have tons of examples of faith, which means they shouldn't worry about little stuff like being persecuted or killed.
2. We just need to look to Jesus and keep on running the race. After all, that's what He did. He died on a cross and His followers should be ready to follow in His footsteps if need be.
3. Suffering is seen as: People to people as well as Satan attacking people. Jesus has delivered us from any claim the devil has against us. However, Jesus' death never guaranteed we would not be persecuted by people. When reading Scripture it's important to know the context of the suffering. If it's from Satan you can rebuke it and stand against it. If suffering and persecution are from people we are encouraged to endure and stand strong.
4. God is like a dad, which means Christians are his children. Human parents have to lay down the law for their kids every now and then. Even though their rules and punishments seem harsh, parental units just do it because they love you.
5. God loves us so He must discipline us. How does He do so. If He is Spirit and we are flesh?
 - *He does so spiritually (vs. 9)
 - *He does so for our good. (vs. 10) God is not bringing evil against us to discipline us. He won't - James 1.
 - *He disciplines us, not to punish us, but so we can share in His holiness. How does holiness come to us? Holiness comes through the blood of Jesus. So God's discipline is in accordance with Jesus' work on the cross.
 - *Discipline is training. (vs. 11) How does God train us. By His Word and His Spirit. (John 14-16; 2 Timothy 3:16)
6. So, keep your head up. Don't be like Esau (from back in Genesis), who turned his back on God just to get a decent meal. Don't let trying times cause you to turn your back on God.
7. Don't give up on God just because you get something good in the short term. If you keep your heart right the rewards will be awesome.
8. You don't have to ever fear approaching God. Why? God is judge. But He made righteousness a possibility through Jesus' blood. God has spoken in this completed work of Jesus that you are forgiven and accepted.
9. Don't ever refuse God's invitation to know Him.
10. If you think that God was tough on people who didn't listen to Moses back in the Torah, what do you think he'll do to the folks who don't listen to his son? We're guessing it's not good.
11. Hold steady and strong. Despite what you see around you God's kingdom is unshakable. Be thankful and worship Him.

REFLECTION

1. Why do so many equate bad things happening to them as 'God's discipline'?
2. If God is good then how is it possible for Him to send bad to teach you and punish you?
3. God will never use anything that Jesus took off of you to discipline or punish you. If God used something the cross took off of you He would be fighting against Himself. So it's best to always ask this question, "Did the cross of Jesus remove this from my life?" If the answer is YES then you can fight against it. Example: Sickness was removed at the cross from your life. Therefore, God will never use sickness to teach you. He would be going against the work of Christ.

APPLICATION

1. Are there things you are tolerating in your life that Jesus has taken away from you at the cross?
2. Make a list of things the cross of Jesus guarantees to you. God will never use something against you that has been settled at the cross.

