

# Lesson Eight

## Hebrews 12

Hebrews 12 begins with the word “Therefore”. We have seen the advantages of a deepening faith in Jesus; we have heard the arguments as to why following Jesus is a new way and introduces a new covenant with the Living God. Chapter 11 pointed back to the giants of faith that were revered by the Hebrew people and their uncompromising faith. However, the author knows it is not easy to follow Jesus and deepen our faith. It takes courage and perseverance. Chapter 12 speaks of how we accomplish a faith that is deepening daily.

1. According to the end of Hebrews 11:39-40, those giants of faith failed to receive what they were promised. That promise was the fullness of transformation or being made perfect for God. This takes faith in the blood sacrifice and promises that Jesus offered. What does 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 say about this?
2. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. What are we to do so that we do not grow weary or lose heart?
3. Jesus, being the author and perfecter of our faith, means there will be times of teaching and discipline so that our faith will be complete. What does Hebrews 12:4-11 say about discipline? How has The Lord disciplined you in your walk of faith? Have you thanked Him?
4. Compare Hebrews 12:12-17 to Isaiah 35:3-10. These verses are referring to the unity of the believers in Jesus Christ and our need to help one another. What can keep us from doing that according to the Hebrews verses?
5. Read Hebrews 12:18-24. These verses are referring to Exodus 19:16-22 and Exodus 20:18-19. What are the differences in how we are able to approach God according to these verses?
6. Read Hebrews 12:25-28. What is the warning for us? These verses also speak of the power of God. Knowing this power and strength is fundamental to our trusting in God's sovereignty over our lives and the lives of our loved ones, what should our attitude be?

**Prayer** All powerful Father, you are a consuming fire, burning up those things that are not eternal and protecting those things that are eternal. We rejoice in your goodness and strength. We come to you with open hearts ready to be transformed day by day. May we leave the past behind and move toward a future of peace and love. Fill us with the knowledge of your unsurpassing love. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.