

Grace does not make endurance unnecessary; grace makes endurance possible.

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, (Hebrews 12:12 NKJV)

Weak faith produces anxious hearts; strong faith produces steadfast feet.

Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. Say to those [who are] fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come [with] vengeance, [With] the recompense of God; He will come and save you." (Isaiah 35:3-4 NKJV)

Anxiety and faith are inversely proportional.

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV)

There is a difference between being tired and being defeated.

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew [their] strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV)

Ask: What burden have I been carrying without bringing it to Christ?

and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. (Hebrews 12:13 NKJV)

The path to holiness must be cleared of the obstacles that cause us to stumble into sin.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness to God. (Romans 6:12-13 NKJV)

Making no provision for the flesh means removing the opportunity for sin before temptation strikes.

God doesn't ask you to clear the path alone:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV)

God removes the obstacles from our path as we trust Him and acknowledge Him in all our ways.

Pursue peace with all [people], and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: (Hebrews 12:14 NKJV)

Drama is a stumbling block that destroys faith and fractures fellowship.

You can't control someone else's drama, but you can control whether you participate in it.

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." (Romans 12:18-20 NKJV)

Peace is not the absence of conflict; it's the refusal to engage in unnecessary warfare.

but as He who called you [is] holy, you also be holy in all [your] conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV)

Holiness means being set apart, being 'other' than the world's ways.

Hebrews 12:12–17 Bitter Roots and Better Roads
7-5-26 Calvary Chapel Titusville
Pastor Paul Andris

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; (Hebrews 12:15 NKJV)

Grace is not just how we're saved; it's how we're sustained.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV)

When we operate in our own strength, instead of God's, we stumble over grace.

"so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go [and] serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; (Deuteronomy 29:18 NKJV)

Bitterness is the fruit of rejecting grace; it poisons everything it touches.

lest there [be] any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 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. (Hebrews 12:16-17 NKJV)

Sexual immorality trades the eternal for the momentary, the precious for the passing.

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. (Hebrews 12:17 NKJV)

Repentance is always available; the consequences of sin may not be reversible.

Take these exhortations seriously. Think about them. Pray about them.