

Hebrews 12:3-11 Lessons from the Battlefields
Calvary Chapel Titusville 6/28/26
Pastor Paul Andris

The passage guards us from two errors: treating hardship lightly or being crushed by it.

***If we lose sight that our walk with the Lord is a battle,
we'll be surprised when the attack comes.***

Consider Him

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. (Hebrews 12:3 NKJV)

***The same endurance Jesus displayed on the cross now lives inside us,
through the Holy Spirit.***

The Battle with Sin

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. (Hebrews 12:4 NKJV)

Your sin may reveal weak faith, but it does not define your salvation.

Here is a rather affirming statement:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8 NKJV)

Even the apostle Paul confessed:

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but [how] to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will [to do], I do not do; but the evil I will not [to do], that I practice. (Romans 7:18-19 NKJV)

***We don't cope. We overcome. We overcome only through the power of the
One who already overcame.***

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NKJV)

The Father's Loving Discipline

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; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." (Hebrews 12:5-6 NKJV)

God is not punishing you in your pain. He is parenting you through it.

"You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, [so] the LORD your God chastens you. (Deuteronomy 8:5 NKJV)

The Word reframes the moment:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. (Revelation 3:19 NKJV)

James gives us the parallel principle:

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have [its] perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4 NKJV)

Trials don't break your faith; they expose it. What they expose, God matures.

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you, (Galatians 4:19 NKJV)

Endure as Sons

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? (Hebrews 12:7 NKJV)

Endurance is possible because the Father's hand is not arbitrary. He knows what He is doing.

***The Father's discipline is never wasted, never delayed by accident,
never applied without love.***

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The Mark of True Sonship

But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. (Hebrews 12:8 NKJV)

This is a sobering verse.

Examine yourselves [as to] whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified. (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV)

The discipline of God is the proof of His ownership.

The Father of Spirits

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? 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. (Hebrews 12:9-10 NKJV)

Every act of God's discipline is calibrated by perfect wisdom, perfect timing, and perfect love.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28-29 NKJV)

The Painful Now, the Peaceable Later

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. (Hebrews 12:11 NKJV)

If your trial doesn't make you better, it will make you bitter. There is no neutral ground.

Peter, a man who knew suffering, wrote:

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. (1 Peter 4:12-13 NKJV)

And Paul, who knew suffering as deeply as anyone in church history, declared:

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. (Romans 8:18 NKJV)

Today's pain is the seed of tomorrow's glory — and the harvest will far outweigh the planting.

In a hard season, hear God's Word: consider Jesus, receive His discipline, submit to His training, stop asking why, and look ahead to glory.

God is not wasting your pain. He is investing it in eternity.