

Heb 12:12-17

Don't Fall Short of God's Grace

- I. Introduction:** The author of Hebrews urged his audience not to fall short of the goal of entering heaven, failing to enter because of unbelieving or immoral.
- II. Don't Fall Short of God's Grace (Heb 12:12-17).**
- A. Renew Personal Vitality (**vv. 12-13**).
1. The author of Hebrews encouraged his Jewish audience to renew their spiritual vitality in the power of God's might and run with greater determination.
- B. Pursue Individual Purity (**v. 14**).
1. The writer of Hebrews challenged his audience to pursue peace with men and holiness so that they could finish the race that they had set out to run.
- C. Combat Spiritual Apostasy (**vv. 15-17**).
1. The author urged his readers not to fall short of God's grace, not allowing any religious entanglements to keep them from finding salvation in Jesus.
- III. Conclusion:** The author warned his audience not to be like Esau, who was a tragic tale of a Jew that fell short of heaven because of his immorality and worldliness.

Study Questions: Don't Fall Short of God's Grace

1. Why does a person need to be concerned about falling short of God's grace? (**Heb 12:12-17**) What was the author concerned about with these Jews? What was causing them trouble?
2. What does the writer sense is happening to these Jews? (**Heb 12:12-13**) How is he like a coach barking out commands? (**vv. 12-13**) Why does he tell them to strengthen their hands and knees?
3. Why was it important for them to make their path straight? (**Heb 12:13**) What Old Testament passage did he reference? (**Prov 4:25-27**) Why is one's path critical? (**Matt 7:13-14**)
4. What two commands does he give to these runners? (**Heb 12:14**) How are these two commands a reflection of God's moral law? (**Matt 22:34-40**) Why are we to pursue peace with men?
5. Why is personal holiness vital in the Christian life? (**Heb 12:14**) How does a lack of holiness disqualify us from heaven? (**v. 14; Matt 5:9**) What does it indicate? (**1 John 3:2**)
6. What does it mean to fall short of the grace of God? (**Heb 12:15-17; Rom 3:23**) Are you seeking after God's grace? What is the bitterness that he is warning against? (**Deut 29:18-20**)
7. Who is the writer's example of someone who fell short? (**Heb 12:16-17**) What does it mean that Esau was immoral and godless? (**v. 16**) How did selling his birthright indicate this?
8. Why was Esau's repentance a worldly repentance devoid of God? (**Heb 12:17; 2 Cor 7:8-10**) Why was he rejected by God? (**v. 17**) Why did he fall short of God's grace?

Prayer

1. Pray that God might reveal to you how you can be strengthened by His grace to run the race.
2. Pray that God would examine your heart and reveal if you are truly pursuing holiness.