

1. What does it mean for us to “make straight paths for [our] feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint...” (v. 13)?
2. Verse 16 uses the example of Esau, who gave up his birthright in exchange for a meal. What does v. 17 mean: Esau “found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears”?

[illegible]

Our text includes four personal imperatives, followed by a three-fold corporate admonition.

1. **The first three imperative verbs are one exhortation to persevere, even in the face of weariness.**
 - These are all metaphoric verbs (figures of speech). How would your daily and weekly habits look different if you were to “lift up your head, strengthen your knees, and make straight paths for your feet”?
 - The “make straight paths” exhortation seems to suggest some corporate responsibility (that we want to clear the way for those who follow).
 - What are some of the ways those who have gone before you have made straight paths for you?
 - What can you do to make spiritual progress easier for those who follow up in the faith?
2. **“See to it” seems to suggest that we have an obligation to watch out for the spiritual well-being of others in our fellowship.** This admonition runs counter to our individualist culture, which discourages personal confrontation (loving or otherwise). Have you ever engaged in the ministry of loving confrontation (either on the giving end or the receiving end)? What is that story?
3. **We’ve all seen a “root of bitterness” (v. 15) contaminate a group or team (or fellowship).** What could have been done by leaders or the people themselves to keep bitterness from taking root in the relationships of the people in the group?