

Hebrews 12: *Enduring Faith*

Historical Context Of Hebrews

- A sort of NT Deuteronomy
 - ▶ ~ 40 years after Jesus' death and resurrection
 - ▶ Temple soon to be destroyed (70 AD)
 - ▶ Church compelled into "all the world to preach the gospel"
 - ▶ Blessings and warnings
 - ▶ Ends with Deuteromic promise "*I will never leave or forsake you*" (Hebrews 13:5)

Hebrews 12: *Enduring Faith*

Summary of Hebrews 1-11

- Hebrews 1-10 Jesus is Better (The Springboard Foundation)
 - ▶ Jesus our brother is the best prophet/priest/king
 - ▶ Listen to Him and live faithfully
- Hebrews 11 The Heritage of Faith (The Springboard)
 - ▶ Faith - *"the substance of things hoped for, assurance of things unseen"* (Hebrews 11:1)
 - ▶ The Faithful - *"obtained a good testimony through faith.."* (Hebrews 11:39)

Hebrews 12: *Enduring Faith*

- The Witness Of Enduring Faith (1)
- The Impediments to Enduring Faith (1)
- The Object of Enduring Faith (2-4)
- The Experience of Enduring Faith (5-11)
- The Response of Enduring Faith (12-29)

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The Witness (1)

- The Great Cloud Of Witnesses - (Hebrews 11 - and then some!)
 - ▶ Having run their race and finished their course
 - ▶ In presence of the Glorified Christ Jesus
 - ▶ Surrounding us with their testimony of enduring faith
 - ▶ Many more added since
 - ▶ Cheering us on
 - ▶ Knowing what it takes to endure

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The Impediments (1)

- Matthew 13 The Parable of the Sower
- 1 John 2:16 Lust of the flesh/eyes/pride of life
- Impede our faithful endurance
- Must disentangle ourselves from these

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The Object (2-4)

- "Look unto Jesus..."
- The Man Jesus
 - ▶ Hebrews 2:5-18
 - Made like us in every way
 - Took back what we lost
 - Sat down at the Father's right hand crowned with glory
 - Merciful and faithful high priest
 - Brother
 - ▶ Hebrews 5:8-9
 - Got there through suffering

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The Experience - Discipline and Chastisement (5-11)

- God our Father disciplines and chastens those He loves for glory
- What does it look like?
- Marks us as God's sons
- Training for God's holiness and peaceful fruit of righteousness - Do you want these things?

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The Response - Walk (12-17)

- Get up - stop feeling sorry for yourself
(remember what we just talked about in 1-11)
- Pursue peace and holiness
- Don't fall short of God's grace
- Don't be bitter
- The warning of Esau who fell short

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The Response - Worship (18-29)

- Two Mountains
 - ▶ The first mountain - Earthly - Sinai - Old Covenant in Moses
 - Israel gather at base of Sinai receiving the law and covenant
 - Terrified unfaithful assembly
 - Frightened mediator - Moses
 - Not the mountain we have come to!

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The Response - Worship (18-29)

- ▶ The new mountain - Heavenly Mt Zion - New Covenant in Jesus Christ
 - The City of God, heavenly Jerusalem
 - Glorious faithful assembly
 - The perfect Mediator - Jesus

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The Response - Worship (18-29) continued

- Enduring Faith Doesn't fall from grace
 - ▶ King speaking from heaven
 - ▶ This kingdom is unshakable
 - ▶ Reverence and Awe - Our God is still a consuming fire!

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Impact/Closing

- A story to illustrate
 - ▶ Enduring faith not an ornamental possession
 - ▶ It compels us and calls us to endure
 - ▶ Leads to peace/righteousness/holiness/glory in Christ

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Impact/Closing

- What is faith requiring of you?
- Can you see how God our Father is discipling you through it?
- How are you responding?
- Instead of refusing Him, "Let us be grateful" for what we are receiving through our trials in Jesus Christ
- Fixing our eyes on the glorious merciful victorious Jesus
- Worshiping Him faithfully in reverence and awe