

By Faith: Summation Part 1 – “Wherefore”

Hebrews 12:12–17 | Pastor Larry Hof

Hebrews 12:12–13

“Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet...”

I. THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVING CHASTENING

Hebrews 12:12–13

- Faith comes by hearing, obeying, and submitting to God's Word.
- Disobedience brings distance, discouragement, and confusion.
- The correct response is:
 1. **Lift up your hands** – submission, praise, gratitude.
 2. **Strengthen your knees** – stop begging for forgiveness already granted; *walk in it*.
 3. **Make straight paths** – remove sin's cause and begin walking **by faith**.

Why?

- Without faith in Christ, you remain spiritually lame and broken.
- Others who are broken need to see the healing work of God in you.

NOTES:

II. WALK IN FAITH SO CHRIST IS SEEN AND GRACE IS FELT

Hebrews 12:14–15

- True faith responds with **trust and obedience**.
- Regardless of how others treat you:
 - Show them Jesus.
 - Stay in right standing with God and pursue peace with all men.

- Bitterness is a dangerous root—its fruit **defiles many**.
- God's chastening is meant to produce **peaceable fruit**, not bitterness.

NOTES:

III. ESAU: A WARNING ABOUT FEAR REPLACING FAITH

Hebrews 12:16–17

- Esau traded long-term blessing for immediate relief.
- Fear produced hasty choices; bitterness produced lifelong damage.
- Esau's example shows:
 - Fear demands urgency; faith requires patience.
 - Fear grabs control; faith yields control to God.
 - Fear gives temporary relief; faith gives lasting reward.

Questions Esau Should Have Asked:

- What if he had sought God before the hunt?
- What if he had sought God when hungry instead of acting rashly?

NOTES:

IV. GOD'S WORD ON FEAR AND FAITH

Fear:

1 John 4:18

"Perfect love casteth out fear..."

Faith:

Habakkuk 2:2–4

"...though it tarry, wait for it... the just shall live by his faith."