

## Hebrews 12 Outline

### **1A The great cloud of witnesses as motivation toward holiness, vv.1-3:**

#### **1B The exhortation to run with endurance, vv.1-2:**

- 1C The surrounding cloud of witnesses, 1a:** For this very reason also we, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,
- 2C The need to put off burdens and entanglements, 1b:** putting off every burden and easily entangling sin,
- 3C The exhortation to run, 1c:** let us run with endurance the contest which is before us,
- 4C The focus of the runner, 2a:** fixing our gaze onto the Founder and Finisher of the faith, Jesus,
- 5C The endurance and focus of Jesus, 2b:** Who, for the joy set before Him endured the cross,
- 6C His attitude toward the adversity, 2c:** after despising the shame,
- 7C His current place, 2d:** has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### **2B A restatement of the exhortation to run, and the focus, v.3:** For consider the one who endured such hostility by sinners, that you might not become weary in your souls, fainting.

### **2A A status report on the Hebrews' spiritual lives, v.4:** You have not yet resisted as far as bloodshed fighting against sin.

### **3A The concept of spiritual training, vv.5-13:**

- 1B A leading question, v.5:** And have you forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as sons, "My son, do not make light of the training of the Lord, nor faint being rebuked by Him;
- 2B Explanation: God's motive in discipline, 6:** For God trains those whom He loves; And scourges every son whom He receives.
- 3B The good son endures training, 7:** You endure unto training, as God behaves toward you as sons; For what son is there whom a father does not train?
- 4B The status of the one who rejects training, 8:** Now if you are without training, of which all have become partakers, then you are bastards and not sons.
- 5B The superiority of the heavenly Father, 9:** Furthermore while we had fleshly fathers who trained us, and we respected [them], will we not much more be subordinate to the Father of the spirits, and we will live?
- 6B The explanation of the heavenly Father's superiority, 10:** For while they trained us for a few days according to their assumptions, He [does so] upon proficiency, to receive a share of His holiness.
- 7B The difficulty of training in light of the ultimate result, 11:** Now while training does not seem to be joyful for the present time, but grievous, afterward it puts forth the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those trained through it.
- 8B Exhortation with regard to training, vv.12-13:** 12 Therefore correct the hands hanging down, and the weak knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, that the lame might not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

### **4A General exhortation to the assemblies of Christians, vv.14-17:**

- 1B Exhortation toward peace, 14a:** Pursue peace with all,
- 2B Toward holiness, 14b:** and holiness, apart from which no one will see the Lord,
- 3B The manner of the pursuit, vv.15-16:**
  - 1C The manner, 15a:** 15 taking care that no one comes short of the grace of God,

- 2C **The reason for the manner, 15b:** lest any root of bitterness after springing up might cause trouble,
- 3C **The potential result of falling short, 15c:** and through this many become defiled,
- 4C **The illustration of falling short, vv.16-17:**
  - 1D **Esau's action, 16:** lest any fornicator, or profane person, like Esau, who for one morsel gave away his firstborn status.
  - 2D **The result of Esau's action, 17:** For you know that also afterward, wanting to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; For he found no place for repentance, though he sought it out with tears.
- 5A **Two contrasting mountains as illustration of the dispensational status of the readers, and reason to obey God, vv.18-24:**
  - 1B **The description of the "not" mountain, Sinai, vv.18-21:**
    - 1C **Introduction, 18a:** For you have not arrived
    - 2C **Description, 18b-21:**
      - 1D **Physical, 18c:** at the touchable mountain, and the one burning with fire, and at gloom, and at darkness, and tempest,
      - 2D **Audible, 19:** and the trumpet-sound, and the sound of words, which those hearing requested not to add a word.
      - 3D **Prohibition, 20:** For they were not bearing the thing commanded – "and if a beast touches the mountain, he will be stoned."
      - 4D **Psychological impact, 21:** And, so terrifying was the spectacle, Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."
  - 2B **The description of the real mountain, vv.22-24:**
    - 1C **Introduction, 22a:** But you have come to
    - 2C **The name, location, inhabitants, and activity of the mountain, 22b-24:** Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the festal assembly and to the gathering of firstborn registered in heaven, to God judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 and to Jesus mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of the sprinkling that speaks better thing than Abel.
- 6A **Exhortation regarding revelation, vv.25-27:**
  - 1B **The exhortation, 25a:** See that you do not refuse the one who speaks.
  - 2B **Warning from past rejection as applied to the present, 25b-26:** For if they did not escape, who refused the one who gave revelation on the earth, how much more we, turning away from the one from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth, but now He has promised, saying, "Still once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."
  - 3B **The evident change and the purpose, 27:** Now this, "Still once more," makes clear the change of the things being shaken, as of thing being made, that the things which cannot be shaken might remain.
- 7A **Final exhortation, vv.28-29:**
  - 1B **Exhortation, 28:** Therefore, receiving an unshakeable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we serve God acceptably with respect and humility;
  - 2B **Explanation, 29:** For indeed our God is a consuming fire.