



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

God Father; in Jesus' name I ask it, Thank You, Lord, for loving us enough to correct and discipline us. Help us receive Your correction as a reminder of Your love, Your acceptance, and the fact that You deal with us as Your beloved child. I pray that our love for our fellow believers will always continue in our heart and will be a fixed practice that will never fail in our lives. Led us and guide us Lord, I ask for provision for our needs met and we are blessed with our daily bread to nourish our bodies. Give us peace and protect us and keep us, I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Worship Music

[Starry Night-Chris August](#)

[Faithfully-Chris August](#)

[7 times 70-Chris August](#)

[Battle-Chris August](#)

Scripture

Hebrews 12 (2005)

Hebrews 12:1-29 (AMP)

¹ THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off *and* throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to *and* entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance *and* steady *and* active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, ² Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader *and* the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising *and* ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition *and* bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], so that you may not grow weary *or* exhausted, losing heart *and* relaxing *and* fainting in your minds.

⁴ You have not yet struggled *and* fought agonizingly against sin, *nor* have you yet resisted *and* withstood to the point of pouring out your [own] blood. ⁵ And have you [completely] forgotten the divine word of appeal *and* encouragement in which you are reasoned with *and* addressed as sons? My son, do not think lightly *or* scorn to submit to the correction *and* discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage *and* give up *and* faint when you are reproved *or* corrected by Him; ⁶ For the Lord corrects *and* disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts *and* welcomes to His heart *and* cherishes. ⁷ You must submit to *and* endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train *and* correct *and* discipline? ⁸ Now if you are exempt from correction *and* left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring *and* not true sons [at all]. ⁹ Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] *and* respected [them for training us]. Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so [truly] live? ¹⁰ For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time *and* chastised us as seemed proper *and* good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness. ¹¹ For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous *and* painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness—in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God]. ¹² So then, brace up *and* reinvigorate *and* set right your slackened *and* weakened *and* drooping hands and strengthen your feeble *and* palsied *and* tottering knees, ¹³ And cut through *and* make firm *and* plain *and* smooth, straight paths for your feet [yes, make them safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction], so that the lame *and* halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

¹⁴ Strive to live in peace with everybody and pursue that consecration *and* holiness without which no one will [ever] see the Lord. ¹⁵ Exercise foresight *and* be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from *and* fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble *and* bitter torment, and the many become contaminated *and* defiled by it—

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¹⁶ That no one may become guilty of sexual vice, or become a profane (godless and sacrilegious) person as Esau did, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you understand that later on, when he wanted [to regain title to] his inheritance of the blessing, he was rejected (disqualified and set aside), for he could find no opportunity to repair by repentance [what he had done, no chance to recall the choice he had made], although he sought for it carefully with [bitter] tears. ¹⁸ For you have not come [as did the Israelites in the wilderness] to a [material] mountain that can be touched, [a mountain] that is ablaze with fire, and to gloom and darkness and a raging storm, ¹⁹ And to the blast of a trumpet and a voice whose words make the listeners beg that nothing more be said to them. ²⁰ For they could not bear the command that was given: If even a wild animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death. ²¹ In fact, so awful *and* terrifying was the [phenomenal] sight that Moses said, I am terrified (aghast and trembling with fear). ²² But rather, you have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering, ²³ And to the church (assembly) of the Firstborn who are registered [as citizens] in heaven, and to the God Who is Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous (the redeemed in heaven) who have been made perfect, ²⁴ And to Jesus, the Mediator (Go-between, Agent) of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood which speaks [of mercy], a better *and* nobler *and* more gracious message than the blood of Abel [which cried out for vengeance]. ²⁵ So see to it that you do not reject Him *or* refuse to listen to *and* heed Him Who is speaking [to you now]. For if they [the Israelites] did not escape when they refused to listen *and* heed Him Who warned *and* divinely instructed them [here] on earth [revealing with heavenly warnings His will], how much less shall we escape if we reject *and* turn our backs on Him Who cautions *and* admonishes [us] from heaven? ²⁶ Then [at Mount Sinai] His voice shook the earth, but now He has given a promise: Yet once more I will shake *and* make tremble not only the earth but also the [starry] heavens. ²⁷ Now this expression, Yet once more, indicates the final removal *and* transformation of all [that can be] shaken—that is, of that which has been created—in order that what cannot be shaken may remain *and* continue. ²⁸ Let us therefore, receiving a kingdom that is firm *and* stable *and* cannot be shaken, offer to God pleasing service *and* acceptable worship, with modesty *and* pious care and godly fear *and* awe; ²⁹ For our God [is indeed] a consuming fire.



Hebrews 12. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

by a vast crowd of those who, in former ages, had run their race for God victoriously and who were now gazing with breathless interest at the initial struggles of the newborn church, the runners are urged to keep their eyes on the goal and to strain every nerve and muscle to win (vv. 1–2). author exhorts them not to be discouraged by their sufferings, for discipline is one of the means by which God's saints are perfected (vv. 3–13). He also urges them to be very careful to guard against defiling themselves in any way lest they sell their birthright (vv. 14–17).

Sinai and Zion (vv. 18–29). The terrifying experiences that accompanied the inauguration of the old covenant at Sinai are contrasted with the heavenly fellowship of the church: one vast brotherhood, in which the saints on earth, the spirits of the redeemed, and infinite hosts of angels are in sweet and mystic communion around the throne of God, forever and ever and ever (vv. 22–24).

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; history & commentaries; page 864)

V1 This verse refers back to verse 36 of Chapter 10 where the author began to encourage the believers to be patient. Chapter 11 listed the Old Testament saints (the great cloud of witnesses) who waited patiently for God to keep His promise in His good time. We are waiting in faith for God to keep His promise of the second coming of Jesus Christ. God is waiting for the perfect time. God has a plan for each of our lives, the race that is set before us. We are to remove any weights and sins that would impede our progress or slow us down. Some activities are not sin but they do encumber us and make the race more difficult. Our choices are not always between right and wrong but are sometimes deciding whether something will be a hindrance in our race (Philippians 3:13,14; 1 Corinthians 6:12). V2 Jesus not only began our faith but He finished it, too. Our salvation depends upon the finished work of Christ and not upon any work of ours. Suffering is something we all experience. When trials come, we don't need to fear that we are out of God's will. Instead, we should allow God to refine us through our sufferings and look beyond the pain to the eternal work. He is doing in us (2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Peter 1: 6,7 and 4:12,13). VV3-4 We are exhorted to consider what Jesus had to suffer, both physically and mentally, during His time here on earth. "Contradiction" is also translated rebellion. Jesus was persecuted and we will be also (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12). V5 The Jews who chose to follow Christ were persecuted by their families, friends, and the government, and were beginning to grow discouraged. God chastens His children, so when we are chastened, we have the comfort that we are His own. His concern is for our eternal benefit, not our temporal ease. We are not to despise the chastening of the Lord or to become bitter when He rebukes us. The chastening of God is corrective not punitive. We should accept correction without getting stubborn or rebellious, for God's chastening is motivated by love. VV 7-8 If we have never been chastened, then we should be concerned. Those who do not belong to God are often able to get by with things that we are chastened for because God has different rules for His children than He does for them. VV 9-10 God chastens us to make us fit material for heaven. V 11 He chastens us to keep us on the right path and to protect us from the bitter fruit of our errant ways. When we are chastened, we should discover the reason for it and look ahead to the peaceable fruit that will result. Sometimes we wonder whether a trial is chastening from God or buffeting from Satan. Sometimes God allows Satan to buffet us as a form of chastisement. He allows us to experience the bitter fruit of a path we have followed. When we pray and ask God to remove a trial, if He takes it away then it was not of God,

but if it persists then we know He wants to teach us something through it. VV 12-13 The exhortation is to get back on the straight path and start running again. V14 "Follow" here is pursue. "Holiness" here is separated. We should be separated from the world for God's exclusive use. V15 Bitterness often comes when we cannot understand the ways of God. Our trials can make us bitter or better. If we are bitter, we make those around us miserable too. VV 16-17 Esau was not crying tears of repentance; he was crying because he had lost the blessing. Esau had shown his spiritual indifference when he sold his birthright for the food his brother made. V18 Our relationship to God under the new covenant is not material, but spiritual (John 4:22). VV 19-21 The people under the old covenant asked Moses to mediate with God for them because the evidences of His presence were so terrifying to them. V23 Our names are written in the the heavenly register which gives us the rights of citizenship in the Kingdom. V24 The blood of Jesus cries out for God's mercy and grace to be extended to us, while Abel's blood cried out for vengeance. V25 Jesus is the One we are to listen to (Mark 9:7). Moses spoke for God on earth, and those who did not obey the laws from God were lost. Since Jesus came directly from heaven to give God's message to us, we should consider His message even more carefully. VV26-28 If our lives revolve around material things, then when God shakes the earth to destroy it, we will lose everything. We should keep a light touch with the world as we develop and strengthen our spiritual man (James 1:27). (New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; pages 131-162)

Hebrews 12:1 tells us that if we are going to run our race, we must lay aside every weight and run the race with patience. I have heard this point summarized this way: Running our race with no hindrances means stripping for the contest. In the days when this verse was written, the writer was drawing a parallel that was much better understood than it is today. In those days, runners conditioned their bodies for a race just as athletes do today. But at the time of the race, they stripped off their clothing, wearing only a loincloth, so that when they ran there was nothing to hinder them. They also oiled their bodies with fine oils. In the same way, we need to be well-oiled or anointed with the Holy Spirit if we want to win our race. We also need to remove anything from our lives that hinders us as we run the race set before us. There are many different hindrances to running a race well and developing our full potential. Too many commitments is one that keeps us from developing our potential. Letting other people control us keeps us from developing our potential. Not knowing how to say no keeps us from developing our potential. Getting overly involved in someone else's goals and vision or becoming entangled in someone else's problems instead of keeping our eyes on our own goals will also keep us from fulfilling our potential. I find that the devil comes up with a thousand ways every week to entangle me and get me into something that will prevent me from doing what I am supposed to be doing. They all seem like emergencies, and it seems I must be the one to handle them all. If we want do what God called us to do, we must stay focused because the world we live in is filled with distractions and entanglements. Let me encourage you to keep your focus on the Lord and be diligent to lay aside everything that might distract you or hold you back.

I want to encourage you to keep your eyes off of yourself and the things that distract you. Instead, focus firmly on Jesus and His power (see Hebrews 12:2). He already knows your troubles. He is ready, willing, and able to bring about the changes that need to be made in you and in your life. He will bring you to maturity and perfection, if you will just ask Him and trust Him to do so. You can count on God; He is the Source of your faith and its Finisher.

Hebrews 12:6 tells us that God disciplines us because He loves us. This truth about God's correction and discipline of those He loves is verified by Jesus Himself in Revelation 3:19 when He says, "Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]." Change often requires correction, but people who do not know they are loved have a very difficult time receiving correction. Correction does you no good at all if you cannot receive it. I encourage you to receive the Lord's correction in your life as a sign of His love for you.

(Amplified Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; 2005; Joyce Meyers; Scripture, notes, commentaries; pages 2049-2052)

(Word 9; Bible Software; KJV; Amp; Sermons of Historical pastors; Scripture; concordance; reference materials; 2008)

Psa 119:105
Thy word [is] a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path.



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