The Letter To The Hebrews Don't Let Trials Make You Weary Hebrews 12:3-12

Introduction

Our vision is to raise up men and women and children who are so grounded in God's Word that when the storms of trials come we will not be blown over like cat-tails, but we will stand strong like oak trees.

Hebrews 12 is one of those passages which, if we will believe it, will enable us to stand strong like oak trees when trials come.

In vv.1-2 the author said the Christian life was like running a race, and to run it we must lay aside sin. In vv.3-11 he says that to run this race we must endure trials. So he asks —

What should we expect to face on this race? (12:3-4)

Many people think the Christian life is supposed to be comfortable, easy, free from trials. But then when trials come they have a crisis of faith and wonder if Christianity is true. In v.3 the author tells us what we should expect by telling us what Jesus experienced — trials. And in v.4 he says that since we have not come close to suffering like Jesus did, we should not be discouraged.

How can we keep enduring trials when they are so painful? (12:5-11)

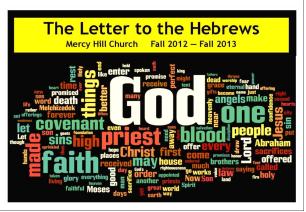
The author tells us that every trial involves the discipline of the Lord. We can endure trials by understanding that they are the discipline of the Lord.

- 1. Every trial involves the discipline of the Lord (vv.5,7)
- 2. The discipline of the Lord is not punishment (vv.10-11)
- 3. The discipline of the Lord is God's love (vv.6-8).
- 4. The discipline of the Lord is for our training (v.11).
- 5. The discipline of the Lord brings us great good (vv.9-11).

What does this mean for us? (v.12)

Lift drooping hands and strengthen weak knees.

Trust God's loving training — and keep running the race.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

In the past what have you thought was the discipline of the Lord? How did this passage change your thinking?

Do you think the Christian life is supposed to be ease and comfort, or do you understand that the Christian life will be full of trials? Why is this an important question?

Do you agree that this passages teaches that every trial is the discipline of the Lord? Why or why not? What difference would that make?

Why do we think the Lord's discipline involves punishment? Can you see how the Cross makes that impossible? Why is that so important?

What keeps us from seeing that our trials are an expression of God's love? Is that what this passage is teaching? Why or why not? What difference does that make?

How do you tend to see flat tires? Sickness? Layoffs? Is Heb 12 saying we should see all these trials as loving training from God? Why or why not?

What trials are you facing right now? How does this passage affect your view of them?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

