

## Strengthening Ourselves in God's Grace

**Text:** Hebrews 12:12-17

**Main Idea:** Finishing the race of faith requires strengthening ourselves when discouraged, staying on the right path, & avoiding the dangers that could disqualify us!

1. **Don't quit:** \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves so we can finish the race of faith! (v. 12-13)
  - Every believer is going to be \_\_\_\_\_ along the way!
  - Every believer will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ to the end!
  - Every believer will have to make \_\_\_\_\_ along the way!
2. **Stay the Course:** \_\_\_\_\_ for Peace & Holiness! (14)
  - In our relationship with others: \_\_\_\_\_!
  - In our relationship with God: \_\_\_\_\_!
3. **Watch out:** See to it that the great spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ do not disqualify you and others from the race! (v. 15-17)
  - Danger # 1: Falling \_\_\_\_\_ of the grace of God. (v. 15a, Heb 2:1, 3:12, 4:1)
  - Danger # 2: \_\_\_\_\_ against God that can poison others around us. (v. 15b, Deut 29:18-19)
  - Danger # 3: \_\_\_\_\_ that wages against your flesh. (v. 16a, Gen 25:29-34)
  - Danger # 4: Having a \_\_\_\_\_ unholy outlook in life. (v. 16b-17, Gen 25:28-34, 27:1-39).

## Strengthening Ourselves in God's Grace

**Text:** Hebrews 12:12-17

**Main Idea:** Finishing the race of faith requires strengthening ourselves when discouraged, staying on the right path, & avoiding the dangers that could disqualify us!

1. **Don't quit:** \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves so we can finish the race of faith! (v. 12-13)
  - Every believer is going to be \_\_\_\_\_ along the way!
  - Every believer will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ to the end!
  - Every believer will have to make \_\_\_\_\_ along the way!
2. **Stay the Course:** \_\_\_\_\_ for Peace & Holiness! (14)
  - In our relationship with others: \_\_\_\_\_!
  - In our relationship with God: \_\_\_\_\_!
3. **Watch out:** See to it that the great spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ do not disqualify you and others from the race! (v. 15-17)
  - Danger # 1: Falling \_\_\_\_\_ of the grace of God. (v. 15a, Heb 2:1, 3:12, 4:1)
  - Danger # 2: \_\_\_\_\_ against God that can poison others around us. (v. 15b, Deut 29:18-19)
  - Danger # 3: \_\_\_\_\_ that wages against your flesh. (v. 16a, Gen 25:29-34)
  - Danger # 4: Having a \_\_\_\_\_ unholy outlook in life. (v. 16b-17, Gen 25:28-34, 27:1-39).

### **Application/Study Questions:**

1. What is the significance of the “therefore” in v. 12? How is v. 12 related to the previous section on God’s discipline? Is it possible to become weary, weak, discouraged and fainthearted in this life? What are we required to do so that we don’t quit the race of faith in Jesus Christ? (v. 14) Practically how do we do this?
2. Oftentimes, Christians misunderstand the doctrine of perseverance. They say that “once saved always saved” means that there is no effort required on my part to live the Christian life. However, notice the action verbs and what is required of us in v. 14? What does it mean to “strive for peace with everyone?” Because we often think too highly of ourselves we make demands of others. What might this verse teach us about “putting others before ourselves?”
3. What does it mean to strive for “holiness without which no one will see the Lord?” The writer seems to be telling us that holiness is an inevitable characteristic in the Christian life and if there is no holiness we will not inherit heaven. How do you reconcile this with being “saved by grace” and not by works? Read Philippians 2:12-13. How does striving for holiness and working out our salvation go together?
4. What are the four dangers that the writer lists for us that might disqualify us from the race of faith? Review each of them and evaluate whether or not these dangers have infiltrated your life. If you benefit from these questions, text “benefit” to 972.935.2249 so that I can evaluate their effectiveness.
5. What does it mean to fall short of the grace of God?
6. Is there any (hidden) root of bitterness in your life toward God concerning any trials that you have had to endure?
7. Is there any “hint of sexual immorality” in your life that you need to rid yourself? (See Eph 5:3)

### **Application/Study Questions:**

1. What is the significance of the “therefore” in v. 12? How is v. 12 related to the previous section on God’s discipline? Is it possible to become weary, weak, discouraged and fainthearted in this life? What are we required to do so that we don’t quit the race of faith in Jesus Christ? (v. 14) Practically how do we do this?
2. Oftentimes, Christians misunderstand the doctrine of perseverance. They say that “once saved always saved” means that there is no effort required on my part to live the Christian life. However, notice the action verbs and what is required of us in v. 14? What does it mean to “strive for peace with everyone?” Because we often think too highly of ourselves we make demands of others. What might this verse teach us about “putting others before ourselves?”
3. What does it mean to strive for “holiness without which no one will see the Lord?” The writer seems to be telling us that holiness is an inevitable characteristic in the Christian life and if there is no holiness we will not inherit heaven. How do you reconcile this with being “saved by grace” and not by works? Read Philippians 2:12-13. How does striving for holiness and working out our salvation go together?
4. What are the four dangers that the writer lists for us that might disqualify us from the race of faith? Review each of them and evaluate whether or not these dangers have infiltrated your life. If you benefit from these questions, text “benefit” to 972.935.2249 so that I can evaluate their effectiveness.
5. What does it mean to fall short of the grace of God?
6. Is there any (hidden) root of bitterness in your life toward God concerning any trials that you have had to endure?
7. Is there any “hint of sexual immorality” in your life that you need to rid yourself? (See Eph 5:3)