

What are You Afraid Of? 13¹
There's a Good Reason for Drooping Hands and Weak Knees
Hebrews 11:39–12:17

Faithful people and a promise yet unfulfilled

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

A model for us

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Even Jesus lived with something to look forward to

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Think about what Jesus was looking forward to so that you don't get discouraged

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Have you lost sight of God's purpose in hard times?

⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore . . .

Stand Tall!

¹² Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,
¹³ and make straight paths for your feet,
so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Live a fully Christian Life

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone,
and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Watch out for one another

¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God;
that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble,
and by it many become defiled;
¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau,
who sold his birthright for a single meal.
¹⁷ For you know that afterward,
when he desired to inherit the blessing,
he was rejected,
for he found no chance to repent,
though he sought it with tears.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hb. 10:24-25 cf. 3:1213

¹ Message prepared and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, November 10, 2019. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.