

## The Last Refuel

### Hebrews 12 - Perseverance through discipline

How were you disciplined when you were little? Do you think it worked?

Think of a hard time in your life? How did you survive? - Maybe?

#### **Read 12:1-12**

What are some metaphors that you have heard that explain discipline?

The author of Hebrews was giving a call to persevere amidst the constant persecution, both physically and mentally. He explains that God causes hardships in our lives as a means of discipline. Why does God do it this way? Is it fair? Doesn't the Bible explain that He will take care of us, as His children? (v.10) - **1 Peter 1:16** "for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

In what areas of your life has God been disciplining you? How have you developed perseverance through it?

#### **Read 12:14-28**

How does this section correlate with the previous?

How often do you think about heaven? Should we focus on heaven constantly?

If yes, what can you do to focus on heaven more each day? How can your life better reflect your true citizenship? (v. 22)

As the book of Hebrews closes we see the author comes with a call to perseverance in chapter 12. All throughout the book, the author is addressing the climate of persecution going on within the Hebrew community. Many of the Jewish Christians are being harassed by their Jewish friends for turning their backs on the religious traditions from which they were raised.

#### **Read 12:1-12**

The author talks about running the race, just like we've heard Paul talk about in 1 Corinthians. He tells the Hebrews to run with endurance or perseverance because the Christian life is not a sprint but a marathon. He wants believers to grow to maturity, until Christ's completion in us as it states in Philippians. There are plenty of people in the church who start off strong, tell everyone in the world about Jesus but after about 6 months fall off of the Church's radar because they have gone back into their previous lifestyle. God is concerned about our steadfastness, how long we can last.

So, the author introduces discipline near the end of this book. Discipline produces endurance, which is continuing even when everything in you wants to slow down or give up. It is so easy to say I'll just leave class at the break or skip class totally because it's easy to do or boring. After 2 hours of homework it is easy to give up and play video games when that paper is due at midnight. Or even, missing church one week won't make a big difference. God will discipline you to make sure you are enduring/persevering. When He does you will have to sacrifice in order to survive.

We have to go through sacrifices in order to be disciplined by God. Many times He allows harm to come our way to test our faith and to grow us **James 1:12** – “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Many times in our walk we are tempted to throw in the towel because we know it is just going to get harder. The other day Collin and Griffin were playing with each other, getting rough, there was whining, much whining. They woke up Eden from her nap. It was time for her to get up anyways. She came out running! So did the boys, they all three collided in the hallway. We have a rule of no running so both Collin and Griffin were placed in time out. They couldn't stand it, if you know my kids sitting still is not an option for them. Afterward the boys and I sat down and talked. They didn't understand why they were being punished. Their concept of having fun involved running, but I had to explain how many times you could slip, run into your sister, run into a wall (ya, it's happened multiple times) or even break something. So as soon as we talked they totally understood right? Nope, they took off and ran over Eden who then preceded to pinch their backs, so I let her do it!

Proverbs says 22:6 says "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

We are God's children. He disciplines us, yet we still go back and do stupid stuff don't we?