

# A Study of Hebrews

## Lesson 11 Hebrews 12:1-28

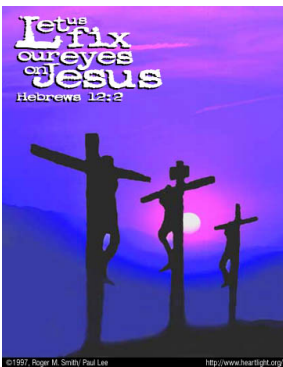
### Surrounded by Witnesses

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

The great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 12:1 refers back to the men and women of faith in chapter 11. Since all of these Old Testament characters that are described were able to remain faithful, then we too can continue faithfully in our service to the Lord. They are testimony that one can live for God in such a way as to please Him even in the midst of opposition and difficulty.



To live our life for God we will have to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings to closely” and “run with endurance.” The word picture is that of a runner who strains to do his best while wearing only the lightest of clothing that is appropriate for running. The athlete desires nothing that would hinder his race. The Christian desires nothing that would hinder his Christian life. In addition the Christian is to “fix his eyes on Jesus.



1. What kinds of things might hinder a Christian life?
2. How does one “fix their eyes on Jesus?”
3. What is the “joy” spoken of in Hebrews 12:2?

### Discipline and Encouragement

(Hebrews 12:3-17)

The Hebrew writer tells us that we will face struggles against sin, but that the first readers had not yet resisted to the point of dying for their faith. Jesus, however, did die. All Christians should look to Him as their example. Christians should also expect to face discipline. Those problems that come upon us can make us stronger as we overcome sin and grow through them. God disciplines

those He loves. We know He loved these Christians because they are addressed as “sons.” Fathers discipline sons because they love them. In our textbook Lightfoot mentions three ways in which discipline is stressed.

1. God’s Word. The Hebrew writer quotes from Proverbs 3:11-12 and this Scripture is called an exhortation.
2. God’s love. The Scripture says that God disciplines those that He loves.
3. God’s purpose. The purpose of discipline is to produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness.<sup>1</sup>

We might add that God disciplines us that we might share in His holiness. (Heb 12:10.)

4. What are some ways in which God might discipline us?

Hebrews 12:12 begins with the word “therefore” indicating that the author is going to draw a conclusion based upon what he has just written. The conclusion instructs on how to live and how to live with others.

5. Is it possible to live at peace with everyone?
6. Describe the meaning of the word “strive” or “make every effort” as used in Heb 12:14. Then answer the question, “how do I know if I have reached this level of effort?”
7. What two temptations does Hebrews 12:15-17 address?

## **A Kingdom that Cannot be Shaken**

**(Hebrews 12:18-29)**

This passage contrasts Mt. Sinai in the Old Testament with Zion (Heaven.) Note these contrasts:<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lightfoot, Neil R. *Everyone’s Guide to Hebrews*. pp. 162-163.

<sup>2</sup> Hagner, Donald A. *Encountering the Book of Hebrews*. p. 162

## LESSON 11

Sinai	Zion
a mountain that may not be touched	a city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
blazing fire	myriads of angels in festal gathering
darkness	the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven
gloom	God, judge of all
whirlwind	the spirits of the righteous made perfect
blast of trumpet	Jesus, mediator of a new covenant
fearful sound of words	the sprinkled blood, better than that of Abel
Moses: full of fear and trembling	

For further research please read about the description of Mt. Sinai in Exodus 19:12-19; 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 4:11; 5:22-25.

8. Who is the assembly of the firstborn in Hebrews 12:33?
9. Note the extreme warning of Hebrews 12:25. Paraphrase this in your own words.
10. What type of kingdom cannot be shaken?
11. How and why does one worship God in reverence and awe?