

## Jesus Is Better Hebrews 12:1-10

### Intro

#### What does it mean to endure?

#### Transition

According to Oxford Dictionary to endure means to suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently, or to remain in existence; to last.

We have all endured trials in our life. All of varying difficulty but we can all relate to having endured pain.

**Sticky Statement: When we endure discipline it strengthens our faith.**

#### Passage

1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up. 4 In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 12:1-4

Because of the list of people we looked at in chapter 11 we can do the following.

Their lives are a witness to God's faithfulness.

The author begins here an analogy of running a race.

This is not a sprint but a marathon, its about distance not speed.

Look back at verse 1:

1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us...

Hebrews 12:1

The imagery here is awesome.

**If you were about to run a marathon would your first thought be "let me grab this 45 pound weight real quick? What would you want to do?"**

You want everything as light as possible.

In an endurance race the last thing you need is extra weight.

Your shoes, pants, shirt, etc all need to be as light as possible.

This is the case in our journey of faith.

**It is not about how fast we reach our destination but about reaching the destination.**

That destination for those wandering is a life of faith in Christ.

If we are weighed down by our sin we will not endure.

One thing that many Christians like to ignore is that sin clings to us.

It digs its claws in and hangs on.

Some sins are easily removed others we find embedded into us and take time to remove them one claw at a time.

We must discipline ourselves and carefully remove sin that hinders our relationship with Christ.

Not out of obligation but out of love and a desire to grow closer to Christ.

**A few simple things we can do that help to lay aside sin:**

- 1. Prayer**
- 2. Worship through song**
- 3. Worship through reading/listening to Scripture**

I have noticed a big difference when I spend time singing/listening to worship music and reading/listening to Scripture.

It is much easier to resist temptation when my soul is filled with praise and Scripture.

The word perfecter in verse 2 is better understood as finisher.

He creates and finishes our faith.

Christ did all the work needed for our redemption.

When He died on the cross He finished His work for forgiveness to be given.

When He rose from the dead, He displayed His power over the consequences of our sin.

His resurrection finished the sting of death for those that believe Jesus.

In verse 3 the words “consider Jesus” are not just the idea of think about Jesus.

We are to look to Him as our example of endurance.

He suffered greatly in order to bring grace to his people.

As we struggle against our flesh to fight the temptation of sin we are to see Christ as inspiration for overcoming and remember we are not alone in the fight.

## **If we are to persevere in our faith we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!**

Let's pick up with verse 5:

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: **My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reprovved by him, 6 for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives.** 7 Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. 11 No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:5-11

In verse 5 and 6 the author quotes Proverbs 3:11-12.

Again reminding us that the Old and New Testaments are one story.

### **When you think of the word discipline what comes to mind?**

When I think about discipline I often think of corrective discipline.

Actions taken to promote better understanding and behavior.

There is also another type of discipline, discipline training.

These are actions taken to building strength in a particular area.

Coaches have athletes run drills, teachers have students do practice problems.

Our passage today covers both types of discipline but really focuses on the discipline training aspect.

When a parent truly loves their child they will offer correction but they will also offer life lessons to help their children grow.

The goal is that our kids are as prepared as possible for life on their own.

If we as earthly fathers want that how much more does our Heavenly father want that?

When we pray for things like patience, God doesn't usually just give it to us.

He places us in situation where we must learn these things.

### **We must endure the lesson to truly learn the discipline needed for life.**

It is painful and difficult but when we reach the other side the reward outweighs the cost.

With each lesson we grow through the stronger our faith grows.

**When we endure discipline it strengthens our faith.**

**Application**

God offers discipline, corrective and training, for our good.

His perfect discipline brings strength when we don't run from it.

God does not discipline because He hates His children but because He loves His children.

But who are His children? All that call on His name for salvation are made His.

When we are rescued but Christ we are made His children.

**Challenge**

Have you called on Christ for rescue from sin?

If so, do you accept His discipline for your growth?

## Commentaries Used in Preparation

Christ Center Exposition: Exalting Christ in Hebrews

The Gospel Coalition Commentary on Hebrew by Dennis Johnson