

**So great a
cloud of
witnesses**

**The
discipline
of God**



How does this chapter fit into the purpose of the epistle of Hebrews

The pathway to sanctification is discipline, enduring suffering by faith.

Identify the critical verbs in Hebrews 12:1-3. Describe the role each plays in the paragraph.

- *Let us Lay aside - sacrifice every encumbrance and sin.*

1. Let us Run - The CHALLENGE.

Why choose “running” as the illustration?

Identify the critical verbs in Hebrews 12:1-3. Describe the role each plays in the paragraph.

2. FIXING our eyes - Our FOCUS as we run.

- Endured the cross - why we are to focus on Jesus.*

Identify the critical verbs in Hebrews 12:1-3. Describe the role each plays in the paragraph.

3. Consider - Concentrated thought. Put the facts together.

• Lose heart - as in to loosen a bowstring

CONSIDER

The 3 purposes of God's discipline

1. As a result of sin

My own unwillingness to do what God says to do or not to do.

v.4 - "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin."

JESUS: “You are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

“If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you.” (Matt. 18:8-9)

- metaphor - hyperbole -

Phil. 3:12-14 “Not that I have already obtained it nor have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13. Brethren, I do not regard myself...

v. 13. (cont.) ...as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The 3 purposes of God's discipline

- 1. As a result of sin*
- 2. To keep me from something that's evil.*

God's discipline is ALWAYS for my GOOD... Never EVIL! (v. 10)

eg. Habakkuk Paul's "Thorn"

The 3 purposes of God's discipline

- 1. As a result of sin*
- 2. To keep me from something that's evil.*
- 3. To teach me something Eg. JOB*

God had to remove His protection.

In light of Proverbs 3:1-12, what “disciplines” might recipients of Hebrews be experiencing?

- *Unjust Suffering & persecution*
- *Unrest/anxiety (v. 2)*
- *Drifting from Scripture (vs. 1 & 3)*

*In light of Proverbs 3:1-12, what
“disciplines” might recipients of
Hebrews experiencing?*

- *Independent pride (vs. 5-7),*
- *Sickness & Hunger - Greed (8-10)*
- *Self-righteousness & Doubt (11-12)
= “Lose Heart” DOUBTING*

What place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? (Heb. 12)

- 1. God's discipline is always for our own good! - v. 5, 7, & 9*
- 2. God's "child-training" flows from a father's heart. - v. 6*
- 3. We CAN endure discipline. - v. 4*

What place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? (Heb. 12)

4. In God's "child-training," avoid the extremes. - v. 5b

5. God's "child-training" is not for punishment but correction- v. 7

"it is for "child training" that we endure." - v. 7

What place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? (Heb. 12)

4. In God's "child-training", avoid the extremes. - v. 5b

5. God's "child-training" is not for punishment but correction- v7

6. God's "child-training" proves us to be God's Children. - v. 8

What place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? (Heb. 12)

7. Our subjectivity to “child-training” proves our respect for God. - v. 9 “place-under”

The level of our love for God is determined by the degree we're willing to obey. “Hear-Under”

What place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? (Heb. 12)

7. Our subjectivity to “child-training” proves our respect for God. - v. 9

*8. v. 10 -The ultimate goal of God’s “child-training” is **RIGHTEOUSNESS**
Holiness - Sanctification - Completeness*

Isaiah 32:17 speaks of the "service of righteousness," similar to the "peaceful fruit of righteousness" in Hebrews 12:11. What is its relationship to Holiness and Sanctification and Completeness?

What insights do you gain about v. 14 from Mat. 5:8 & 1 Thess. 4:1-8?

The Pure in Heart shall see God!

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality... not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God... For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”

*What insights do you gain about
v. 14 from 1 Cor. 6:9-11?*

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ...neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...

Gen. 25:19-34 and 27:1-41. Examples of Esau's "root of bitterness" and the "many" who were "defiled by it?"

Esau "cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry." - (Gen. 27:34)

Esau "bore a grudge against" and planned to kill Jacob when Isaac died. (27:41)

Defiled: "all of Jacob's relatives would become his servants." (27:29 & 31)

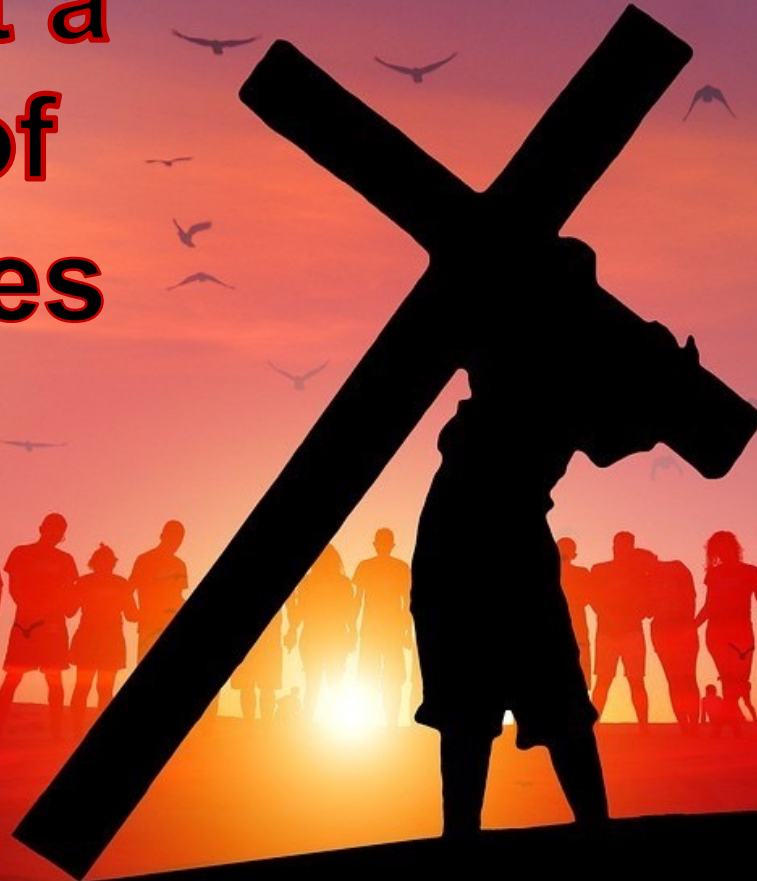
Heb. 12:16 - What was “immoral” and/or “godless” about Esau’s responses?

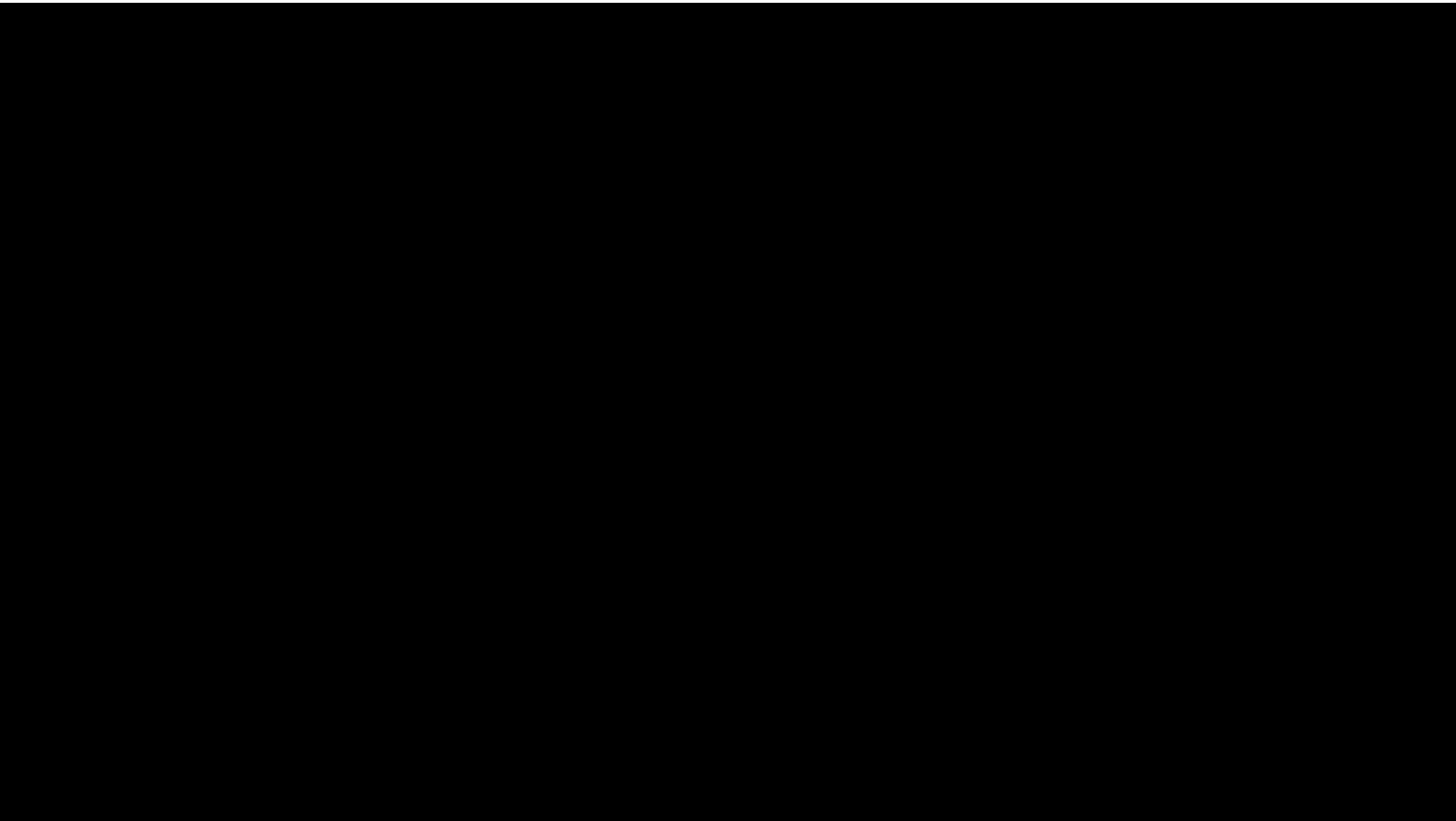
Heb. 12:16 - What other response could Esau have had that would have prevented his bitterness?

Giving Thanks

**So great a
cloud of
witnesses**

**The
discipline
of God**





Exhortation or Instruction

Warning

Judgement