

HEBREWS PART 6

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Hebrews 10:35-39 (NKJV)

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

37 "For yet a little while,

And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith; *(the righteous person will live their lives by faith)*

But if anyone draws back,

My soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

In the previous chapter we are warned ... don't cast away your confidence ... we are in need of endurance ... live by faith ... don't draw back. Keep on keeping on. Now we are going to see examples of such ... "Heroes of Faith" ... The Gallery of the Faithful ... yet very ordinary people ... which we can imitate.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 11 ... A BETTER WAY

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)

1 Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.** *(If you have faith ... You believe ... with the eye of faith ... you see it)*

2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 **By faith** we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God,** so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. *(God spoke ... and things happened)*

Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)

4 **By faith Abel** offered to God **a more excellent (better) sacrifice** than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Hebrews 11:5-6 (NKJV)

5 **By faith** ***Enoch** was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, *(*some evil people were looking for him ... to "do away with him" ... because of his prophesying??)* because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he **pleased God.** *("Walked with God for 300 years" ... Genesis 5:22 Therefore he must have had faith ... Because without faith it is impossible to please God ... Next verse)*

6 **But without faith it is impossible to please Him,** **for he who comes to God must believe that He is,** **and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

***Jude 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

14 Now **Enoch,** the seventh from Adam, **prophesied about these men** also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,
15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an

ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)

7 **By faith Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, **prepared an ark for the saving of his household, (he took action!) by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.** *(Noah didn't have any evidence of the things to come ... other than the Word from God. Live faith has corresponding actions ... Noah demonstrated that. He set out to build a gigantic boat ... and he prophesied. Noah had to put up with ridicule ... decade after decade after decade. The Place of Safety was there for people to be saved.)*

Remember: Faith has corresponding action!

Hebrews 11:8-16 (NKJV)

8 **By faith Abraham obeyed (took action) when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. (Faith is the substance of things hoped for ... the evidence of things not yet seen)**

9 **By faith** he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 for **he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker (architect/builder) is God.** *(Abraham wasn't motivated by some land ... a vineyard ... some camels and sheep. He looked to The Eternal City ... The Holy City ... dwelling with The Father and his brother, Jesus ... For eternity! That's what Abraham saw far off in the distance)*

11 **By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.**

12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13 **These all died in faith, not having received the promises, (the promises here have a time element ... it's not here yet ... but we ... like them ... see it. Our faith is the evidence)** but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.**

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.**

This was a vision that the Hebrews needed to look forward to. And us too! Compare:

Revelation 21:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 **Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** *(We don't go to heaven to God's city ... it comes down to us)*

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, **"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.**

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 21:10-14 (NKJV)

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me **the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**

11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

14 Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Remember: Abraham was looking for the city whose builder and architect was God. And ... here it is.

Revelation 21:21-24 (NKJV)

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 But I saw no temple in it, for **the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.**

23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. **The Lamb is its light.**

24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it.

The key thing about this city is what about those who dwell there. What about you and I living there ... walking up to Jesus? Having

The Father putting His hand on our shoulder? The Family of God lives there.

Hebrews 11:17-29 (NKJV)

17 **By faith Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. *(Abraham's faith matured over time. He must have believed/trusted that they were coming back ... him and Isaac)*

20 **By faith Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 **By faith Joseph**, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. *(Joseph had heard the prophecies ... knew the promises ... he believed)*

23 **By faith Moses**, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. *(Moses mom and dad took a risk hiding Moses. Surely you can copy Moses mother?)*

24 **By faith Moses**, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 **choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy *the passing pleasures of sin**, *(there is a sting in the tail ... Even if you choose a "life of sin" ... ultimately you forfeit eternity!)*

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

27 **By faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

28 **By faith** he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

29 **By faith** they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

***Hebrews 11:25 (NET)**

25 ... **sin's fleeting pleasure.**

Hebrews 11:25 (HCSB)

25 ... **the short-lived pleasure of sin.**

Hebrews 11:30-40 (NKJV)

30 **By faith** the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. *(That took a bit of faith)*

31 **By faith** the harlot **Rahab** did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of **Gideon** and **Barak** and **Samson** and **Jephthah**, also of **David** and **Samuel** and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a **better resurrection.**

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

These were very ordinary people ... they had problems ... sins ... just like us. We shouldn't let our problems ... failures ... prevent us from walking by faith.

All of these people are anonymous to us ... but we will meet them one day. It shouldn't be a surprise ... to The Hebrews or to us ... that life for a believer can get difficult! You can't look back. You can't give up now! Look at the next few verses:

Acts 14:19-22 (NKJV)

19 Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; **and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.** *(The Jews were professional when it came to stoning! You can't keep a good man down!)*

20 However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 **And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned** to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
22 **strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith,** and saying, **"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."** *(Which is what the Heroes of Faith experienced on more than one occasion)*

2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NKJV)

10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance,

11 **persecutions, afflictions,** which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all

the Lord delivered me. *(Paul was a man of faith ... who easily can be added to the Gallery of Faith)*

12 **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.** *(Forewarned is forearmed. Life at times can be very hard)*

HEBREWS CHAPTER 12 ... A BETTER MOUNTAIN

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)

1 Therefore we also, since **we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,** *(witnesses to us ... these great heroes of faith ... we can look at their lives and testimony ... they are not in Heaven watching!!)* **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us,** *(what's holding us back ... taking up so much of our time and resources?)* and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,** *(keep on running ... endure ... don't draw back ... don't give up ... have faith and patience)*

2 ***looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,** *(not so much the others that have gone before)* who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

***Hebrews 12:2 (NASB)**

2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith,** ...

This whole letter is a Priesthood Book ... Our Greater High Priest ... who ever lives to make intercession for us ... who has opened a new and living way to the Most Holy Place. He has taken His blood before The Father. The Hebrews were probably looking back to the Old Covenant.

Hebrews 12:3-4 (NKJV)

3 **For consider Him** who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, **lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.**

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

Hebrews 12:5-11 (NKJV)

5 And **you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: (easy to do)**

"My son, do not despise the chastening (Chastening = Greek --- Paideia = The whole training and education of children) of the Lord,

Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 **For whom the Lord loves He chastens, (Chastens:Greek:Paideia) And scourges every son whom He receives."**

7 If you endure **chastening, (Chastens:Greek:Paideia) God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?**

8 But if you are without **chastening, (Chastens:Greek:Paideia)** of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, **we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?**

10 For they indeed for a few days **chastened (Chastens:Greek:Paideia)** us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 **Now no chastening (Chastens:Greek:Paideia) seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

Now where this usually goes wrong is: some people imply that God gives us sickness ... causes accidents ... the death of loved ones ... to teach us lessons?? Does that makes us stop and think? Does this give us the time to reflect? "Chastens" ... chastens us with sickness

... unemployment ... our house burns down ... or a serious accident?
No!!! This doesn't teach us anything of the sort.

Look at the context. This is all family orientated. Family relationships. Family discipline. Father and children. The Father corrects ... disciplines ... provides instructions ... reprimands. A father doesn't give a disease to his children to teach them a lesson! Doesn't break legs ... to teach a lesson. What normal father would do any of these things? That would be a monster NOT a father.

A father helps ... guides ... directs ... corrects ... rebukes ... uses various tools. But ALL IN LOVE (hopefully!)

In most modern Bibles like the NASB ... NET ... HCSB ... they use the word "discipline" and not "chasten".

Basically ... "Child training". Compare with the following few verses:

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 "Honour your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And **you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.** (KJV ... "Nurture and admonition" ... *Paideia*. NASB ... "Discipline and instruction")

Don't provoke your children ... don't exasperate them ... teach ... set example ... instruct (not break legs ... inject flu, etc)

The primary way that God does that with us is in the next few verses:

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NKJV) ... INSTRUCTION = PAIDEIA

14 **But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,**

15 **and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

16 **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**

17 **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

This is how God ensures that we are complete ... mature ... through scripture. As His primary mechanism to reprove ... correct ... to instruct us in righteousness. God is dealing with our spirit ... not with our physical bodies. Not burning our house down. Not giving us cancer. Not causing your child to die.

When we go through many tribulations ... persecutions ... when we meet opposition ... criticism of the world ... it can certainly drive us to God's Word. When we are struggling with weights ... sins that so easily ensnare us ... it can drive us to God's Word for instruction ... correction ... reproof. It's not always pleasant to do that ... God's Word is like a two-edged sword.

So ...referring back to **Hebrews 12:5-11 (NKJV)**

The emphasis in these verses is FAMILY ... God is our Father and He is child-training His children ... Jesus' brothers and sisters. Jesus was perfected by things He suffered ... but God didn't make Him sick or push Him off a rooftop to break a leg!

Hebrews 12:12-13 (NKJV)

12 **Therefore strengthen** the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

13 and **make straight paths for your feet**, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. *(Encourage those who are "losing heart" ... "Be Strong!" Look to Jesus! We are not on our own. It's not just us against the world. There is a new and living way ... come boldly to the Throne of Grace and find grace to help in time of need).*