

Hebrews

Perils that can Threaten a Life of
Faithfulness

Hebrews 12:4-17

Shedding your Blood

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not *yet* resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

- *We, too*, will see Christians resisting to the point of shedding their blood.
- It may not be us personally.
- Many are at this point already in other places.

Forgetting the Lord's Encouragement in Discipline

⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Forgetting the Lord's Encouragement in Discipline

- Do not make light of hardship – whether yours or someone else's.
- Don't lose heart in believing that the Lord has deserted you when he allows you to face discipline through hardship.

Properly Understanding Hardship as Discipline

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

Properly Understanding Hardship as Discipline

- Desertion would lead to “no discipline”.
- Only the illegitimate are deserted.

God's Discipline is "For our Good"

⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!

¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

- “Discipline” in the “treatment suited to a learner”.
- The Lord’s discipline does not mean that He is necessarily the *source* of the bloodletting
- As our fathers might allow us to bear the brunt of evil to help us grow, so might God -- even when our fathers might be able to prevent evil.
- We very well might become stronger by facing bloodletting.

- “Discipline” in the “treatment suited to a learner”.
- The Lord’s discipline does not mean that He is necessarily the *source* of the bloodletting
- As our fathers might allow us to bear the brunt of evil to help us grow, so might God -- even when our fathers might be able to prevent evil.
- We very well might become stronger by facing bloodletting.

God's Discipline's Pain Produces a Good Harvest

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God's Discipline's Pain Produces a Good Harvest

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

The Proper Way to Live

Live at Peace

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone...

Be Holy

[Make every effort -- SDC] to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Live as a Recipient of God's Grace

¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Avoid Sexual Impurity

¹⁶ See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. ¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.