

## HEBREWS 12:14–29

**FIRST DAY:** Introduction

Falling short of God's grace is lethal to the Christian life! Without God's grace, our interpersonal relationships are sabotaged, our worship of God becomes drudgery, and our future appears unstable. However, when we factor in the grace of God:

- Our relationships become characterized by peace and holiness
- Our worship of God becomes enjoyable and glorious
- Our outlook on the future becomes expectant and promising

In Hebrews 12, having encouraged believers to *run with endurance the race that is set before us*, the author then focused on the essentiality of grace (verses 14–29). God's grace must be carefully maintained in every area of our lives so that we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

*Ask God to lead you deeper into the riches of His grace.*

**SECOND DAY:** Read Hebrews 12:14–17

1. As the Hebrew believers continued with endurance in their great faith, what two things were they exhorted to pursue? Hebrews 12:14a

a. The Greek word for *pursue* is *dioko*, which means *making every effort to acquire*. With this in mind, use the following Scriptures to comment on how and what to *pursue*:

(1) Romans 12:18

(2) Romans 14:19

(3) 1 Thessalonians 4:4–7

b. What is impossible *without* this? Hebrews 12:14b

(1) What does this reveal about the value God places on interpersonal relationships? See also 1 John 3:10–11.

2. Read Hebrews 12:15 and note that the author invoked the phrase *looking carefully*. What does this convey to you about:

a. The importance of God's *grace*

b. The danger of *bitterness*

(1) What connection do you see between *falling short of the grace of God* and *bitterness*?

(2) Why do you desire to avoid any *root of bitterness*? See also Ephesians 4:31–32.

3. In Hebrews 12:16, the author warned the believers about two types of people. The first was a *fornicator*—one who puts self-interests above God. The second was a *profane person*—one who lives for the cares of this life rather than God. Why do you think believers are to beware of these types of people?
  
4. From your study today, share a way someone can avoid becoming a *profane person like Esau*.

**THIRD DAY:** Read Hebrews 12:18–24

1. In Hebrews 12:18–24, the author used Mount Sinai and Mount Zion to symbolically contrast the Mosaic Law with the superiority of our heavenly blessings in Christ Jesus. Use verses 18–20 to set the scene for the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai.

- a. Use verse 21 to note and comment on Moses' reaction to this.
- b. What impression does this scene convey to you concerning the Mosaic Law?
2. By contrast, the author declared that we as believers in Jesus Christ *have come to Mount Zion*, our eternal destiny. Use Hebrews 12:22–24 (NLT) to fill in the chart: <sup>22</sup>*No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering.* <sup>23</sup>*You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God Himself, who is the Judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect.* <sup>24</sup>*You have come to Jesus, the One who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.*

WHAT WE HAVE COME TO	DESCRIPTION	YOUR TAKEAWAY
<i>The city</i>	Verse 22a	
<i>The angels</i>	Verse 22b	
<i>The assembly</i>	Verse 23a	
<i>God Himself</i>	Verse 23b	
<i>The spirits</i>	Verse 23c	
<i>Jesus</i>	Verse 24a	
<i>The sprinkled blood</i>	Verse 24b	

- a. *The city of the living God* is the final destination for the Christian pilgrim. What excites you most about your eternal destiny at *Mount Zion*?

3. How do you think the author's contrasting descriptions of Mount Sinai and Mount Zion would have spoken to the Hebrew believers?
  - a. How does this contrast speak to you?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Hebrews 12:25–27

1. For the second time, the author issued the same stern warning to believers (see Hebrews 2:1–3). What did he warn them *not* to do? Hebrews 12:25a
  - a. What was the fate of those who *refused* God's Word on earth (at Mount Sinai)? Hebrews 12:25b

b. That being the case, how much more *shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven* (Hebrews 12:25c)? With this in mind, read the following Scriptures to understand the essentiality of hearing *Him who speaks from heaven*:

(1) Isaiah 55:3a

(2) Matthew 13:14–17

(3) John 5:24–25

(4) John 10:27–28

2. Hebrews 12:26–27 (NLT) says, <sup>26</sup>*When God spoke from Mount Sinai His voice shook the earth, but now He makes another promise: “Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also.”* <sup>27</sup>*This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.* Use these verses to answer the following:

a. What happened *when God spoke from Mount Sinai*? (verse 26a)

b. What did God *promise*? (verse 26b)

(1) This quote from Haggai 2:6 refers to the last days when Christ returns. However, we can see early signs of this shaking even now. How do you see God shaking things up in the world today?

c. What are the ramifications of this *promise*? (verse 27)

(1) Use the following Scriptures to identify the things that are *unshakable*:

(a) Isaiah 40:8/Matthew 24:35

(b) Isaiah 51:6

(c) Isaiah 54:10

3. From your study today, share what speaks to you most about:

a. God's voice

b. Things which cannot be shaken

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Hebrews 12:28–29

1. According to Hebrews 12:28a, what kind of *kingdom* are we *receiving* through faith in Christ?
  - a. How does this minister to you?
  
2. In order to receive this *kingdom*, what divine element must we *have*? Hebrews 12:28b
  - a. What does this divine element enable us to do? Hebrews 12:28c
  
  - b. Contrast the condition and results mentioned in Hebrews 12:15a with the condition and results in Hebrews 12:28b. What do you see?
  
3. Print Hebrews 12:29.

a. Use the following verses to understand the glory and seriousness of this statement:

(1) Exodus 24:17

(2) 1 Kings 18:38–39

(3) Isaiah 43:2

(4) 1 Corinthians 3:11–15

(5) Revelation 1:14

b. Use Hebrews 12:29 to explain why God cannot be safely approached except through Jesus.

**SIXTH DAY:** Review

1. From your study this week, share your insights about the following contrasts:
  - a. Peace and holiness versus bitterness (verses 14–15)
  - b. Mount Sinai versus Mount Zion (verses 20, 22)
  - c. Profane person versus general assembly and church of the firstborn (verses 16–17, 23)
  - d. Blood of Abel versus blood of Jesus (verse 24)
  - e. Shaken versus unshaken (verses 27–28)
2. As you consider what you studied this week, write a reason you are so thankful for *Our Great Faith*.

