

We Are Our Brothers Keepers 2021-06-06

Hebrews 12:12-17

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

Telltale signs of someone tired out! NFL hands on hips, bent over = exhausted.

- When worn out from life/trials understanding the purpose of God’s loving discipline helps us endure and not despair or take easier path.
 - To persevere in race, we need to encourage and strengthen one another.

“See to it” only here means “to exercise oversight.” Hebrews 12:15a, 1 Peter 5:2 (variant)

- Have responsibility to encourage and strengthen one another in race of faith.
 - Someone lagging/fallen, go back and help get up/finish race.

Can encourage/strengthen one another to run well by personal example. Hebrews 12:12-13

- “make straight paths” from word meaning: wheel tracks.
 - idea is leaving tracks for others to follow.
- Last week: 1 purpose of God’s discipline is to make us stronger through afflictions for our benefit and others. 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Spurgeon: Floods simply lifted Noah toward heaven, and winds helped him on his way.

- - seeing how Christians trusted God through suffering/trials encourages others to not give up.
 - Your example makes it easier for others to believe/follow/mature in Christ

Strengthen others by helping flee sin bitter/immoral/worldly Hebrews 12:15-7, Ephesians 4:31-32, Matthew 5:28

- Be careful we don’t grow bitter against God because of trials and poison others/body of Christ.
- “Immoral” (Greek = *pornos*) = any kind of sinful sexual activity.
 - includes impure thoughts, fantasies, inappropriate media.
- Worldliness: Bible does not say Esau was immoral – better description “unholy/godless” describing Esau.
 - succeeded in worldly but failed in things of God.....Lived for here/now.
 - “fails to obtain grace of God” same verb in Romans 3:23

- sober warning: Continued satisfaction with world CAN lead to inability to repent.
 - God forgive all sins if we truly repent, but not undo some consequences.

Help almost always most effective when through existing loving relationships.

- Before help brother with speck, take log out of own eye. Matthew 7:1-5

Help others persevere by example, help flee sin, pursue peace/holiness. Hebrews 12:14, Romans 12:18

- Implies exerting ourselves for peace with all....forgive and encourage others to forgive.

- Not peace at all costs: Not compromise our Christian values/the Gospel. At times not possible: some cling to bitterness.

- most difficult is fellow Christians who wrong you.

be at peace with all others and at war with your sin....pursue holiness.

- Holiness provided by God and guided by His discipline but must strive for it.

- grow in grace because you want to be like the Savior and fellowship with Him.

- Pursue peace/holiness is another way to say love God/others. Matthew 22:37-39

Christian life is not solitary life, can't be lived alone....we need one another.

- Care about one another's souls, don't ignore spiritual/moral fatigue of other Christians.

- To persevere in race, need to encourage/strengthen one another through personal example, by assisting to flee sin and pursue peace/holy.

Ephesians 4:29

- Done with prayer, social media, discipleship/accountability

- You are your brothers' keeper: help them run with endurance until finish race.