Never Grow Weary Of Doing Well

Hope Chapel Honolulu Hebrews 12:1-29

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

(Hebrews 12:5-6, ESV)

Introduction

The Holy Spirit moved (1Peter1:21) the writer of Hebrews to quote from Proverbs 3:11-12-- "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights" (ESV)—to encourage their readers and hearers to trust the Lord when and where they felt their faith in God tried or tested. That admonition from Hebrews 11:6, which describes the kind of faith required by God—belief in His existence and faithfulness—surely came to the minds of the original audience of this Letter to the Hebrews. But what comes to our hearts and minds when our faith is tried and tested in times, places, circumstances and relationships that tempt us to doubt God's faithfulness?

1. The joy which was set before our Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 12:1-6)

- a) What does it really mean for Jesus to be the author and perfecter of our faith?
- b) What was this joy which was set before Christ that helped Him through His cross?

2. The discipline of God our Father who loves you and I as His children. (Hebrews 12:7-17)

- a) The Father disciplines us, "for our good (and) that we might share His holiness" (v.10).
- b) The discipline of God always occurs in the context of our relationships: with God or one another.

3. That very great cloud of witnesses and unshakeable Kingdom. (Hebrews 12:18-29)

- a) "The sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."
- b) "Offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

Conclusion

Faith in God, while not intended for our personal profit, always brings great personal benefit as we live out a belief that God exists and rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Our faith in God is always tested in the arena of relationships—for the enemy of our souls despises both our God and we who have been made in God's image and likeness and commanded therefore to love one another as we love ourselves. But as we learn to see this "testing" or revealing of the nature and condition of our faith—as fire reveals the purity of precious metals like silver and gold—as the discipline of God which is for our good and our share in His holiness, we will learn to endure hardship well, and maybe someday never grow weary of doing well.

For our prayerful discovery, discussion and application:

- 1) Why does the Spirit and Word of God speak of Christ as the author and perfecter of our faith?
- 2) What are the joy and discipline of the Lord and why are they important to you and I?
- 3) What did the Word and Spirit of God remind you of or teach you anew this week?

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