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The Author and Finisher of Our Faith

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **October 30, 2016**

Hebrews 12:1-13

Introduction: The apostle, having illustrated the nature and power of FAITH in the previous chapter Hebrews 11:1 **II.** He appeals to the **example** of the **Saviour**; Hebrews 12:2-4. This was a more illustrious instance than any of those which had been adverted (referred) to, and is NOT referred to with theirs, but is adduced (mentioned) as deserving a separate and a special specification. The circumstances in **HIS CASE** which are an **encouragement** to **perseverance** in the Christian conflict, are these:

- (1) He ENDURED the **cross**, and is now **exalted** to the right hand (side) of God (Yahweh).
- (2) He bore the contradiction of sinners against himself, as those were called to do to whom Paul wrote.
- (3) He went **beyond them** in his TRIALS and TEMPTATIONS - beyond anything which they could have reason to apprehend - for he had **“resisted unto blood, striving against sin.”**
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bnb/hebrews-12.html>)

Hebrews 12:1, Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a CLOUD of witnesses, let us **lay aside** every **weight (burden (hindrance))**, and the **SIN** which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with **PATIENCE** the race that is set before us...

Patience defined 5281, cheerful (or hopeful) endurance (state of lasting or duration; persistence), **constancy** (persevering resolution [unconquerable will]; STEADY, UNSHAKEN determination).

NOTE: The word 'witnesses' never elsewhere refers to a crowd of **spectators**. It does not mean those who look on. Rather it always means someone who bears witness, someone who **bears testimony**. The thought behind the reference therefore is that of the contestants being aware of this **specialist crowd** of experts in the field who **have already proved themselves**, in order that they might **receive strength** from their **EXAMPLE** and **GUIDANCE** as they prepare for and run their race. They see those heroes and heroines of the faith in chapter 11, those great witnesses to the living God, in the way that is described in Scripture, and they **LEARN from them HOW** they should behave.

The lesson to be learned from their advice as witnesses is clear. They **MUST follow their example**. Like them they must lay aside every weight, and anything that would cling to them and prevent them running well, (besets them), anything that would be a hindrance to them. And they must then run with **patient endurance** the race set before them. The **race** being a **long-distance race** this patient endurance will be very necessary, and will especially apply in the latter part of the race when **special determination** and **GRIT** (firmness of MIND; invincible spirit; unyielding courage; fortitude) will be required, as it once was for those heroes and heroines themselves.

Thus they **MUST** **throw ASIDE** ANYTHING that **would affect** their performance, whether the **pull** (an invisible power in a body by which it draws anything to itself) of the **WORLD** with its offer of fame and glory, or of the flesh with its offer of ever growing sinful pleasures, or of the Devil with his intent to **DECEIVE** the **MIND**, or whether simply the **LAZINESS** and **CARELESSNESS** which can **prevent them achieving their BEST**.

...The sin' probably summarizes the idea of ALL SIN, sin as a mass seeking to hinder them and prevent them from running satisfactorily (compare 1 John 1:8 with 10), rather than signifying one particular sin, although some see it as the **sin of apostasy** (total desertion of departure from one's FAITH) which they should specifically **lay aside**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pet/hebrews-12.html>)

Matthew 10:22, And ye shall be **hated** of ALL MEN for my name's sake: but **he** that **endureth (persevere)** (pursue steadily course commenced) to the **END** shall be **SAVED**.

Hebrews 12:2, **LOOKING** (observe with the eyes while **KEEPING** them directed) unto **Jesus** the **author** and **finisher** of **our FAITH**; who for the **JOY** that was set before him endured the cross, **DESPISING** the **shame**, and is set down at the **right hand (side)** of the throne of God.

Despising defined 2706, to **THINK** (have the mind occupied on some subject) **AGAINST** (in opposition), **disesteem** (**disregard** [to neglect to observe], **to slight** [to disregard from the consideration that a thing is of LITTLE VALUE and UNWORTHY of notice]).

NOTE: "Looking unto Jesus" means **FOCUSING ALL** of one's spiritual vision upon the Lord; for it is true of us, no less than of Peter, that **our strength** is in **BEHOLDING the Saviour**; and just like Peter, who as long as he looked to the Lord walked on the sea, but who diverted his attention and began to sink, so long as Christians keep the Lord **IN VIEW**, they shall prevail over **EVERY TRIAL** (Matthew 14:30).
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-12.html>)

Matthew 14:29-30, And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he **SAW** the **wind** boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

Jonah 2:8, They that **observe (regard [LOOK ON])** **lying vanities (emptiness)** forsake their own mercy.

Hebrews 12:3, For **consider** (view attentively) **him** that **ENDURED** such **contradiction (gainsaying [opposing])** of **SINNERS** against himself, lest **YE be wearied** and **FAINT** (sink into dejection [**depression**]; to lose courage or spirit.) in your **MINDS**.

NOTE: What is said here of the "gainsaying of sinners" is no mere reminder of such things as the Lord experienced, but a **warning** for Christians to be **ON GUARD** against the same kind of **opposition** today. The victory which the Lord promised his followers over "gainsayers" (Luke 21:15) derives from the knowledge of the scriptures (Titus 1:9) and was listed as one of the qualifications of an elder.

Gainsaying is a **verbal attack** upon a believer for the **purpose** of **destroying his FAITH**, and it means "to oppose, contradict, deny, controvert (oppose by reasoning), or dispute."

...The classical example of gainsayers were the Pharisees, especially as presented in the gospel by Matthew. They **MALICIOUSLY** contradicted Jesus; and the record of our Lord's **patient endurance** of their **slandorous** and **shameful OPPOSITION** is a source of encouragement for those of any age who must deal with the cunning deceit of the gainsayer, whose strategy, in the final analysis, boils down to this, that they will simply **WEAR the believer out, IF POSSIBLE**, causing him, at last, to **FAINT** and **FALL AWAY**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/hebrews-12.html>)

Luke 8:13, They on the **ROCK** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a WHILE **believe**, and in time of **temptation** (**experience of EVIL**) **FALL AWAY** (**desert** (leave permanently), **depart**).

Hebrews 12:4-5, *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto **children**, My son, **DESPISE NOT** thou the **CHASTENING** of the Lord, nor **FAIN**T when thou art **REBUKED** of him...*

Despise defined 3643, disesteem (slight [disregard, as of LITTLE VALUE and unworthy of notice], dislike).

Chastening defined 3809, tutorage, i.e. education or training; by impli., disciplinary CORRECTION:-- instruction, nurture.

Faint defined 1590, to relax (to GIVE UP: come to a standstill, in respect to energy, EAGERNESS; or EFFORT).

Rebuked defined 1651, to confute (prove to be wrong; to convict of error, by argument or proof), **admonish**:-- convict, convince, tell a fault.

Rebuke, 1. to chide (SCOLD at; to utter words in ANGER, or by way of disapprobation [disapproval]); to reprehend (blame; to censure) for a fault; to check by reproof.

Thought 1. Here's a good place to stop and be reminded that these words in Hebrews are spoken to people who have been born again by FAITH in Jesus and his work on the cross, and are therefore living UNDER the "**New Covenant.**" Remember, on the cross, he was made to be "CURSE" for us to redeem us FROM the curse of the Law. (Gal. 3:13) That being said, our Father, Yahweh, does NOT "correct" and "chastise" US, his children BORN of his Spirit and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, in the same manner, as he did his people who lived under the Old Covenant.

As we know, the Holy Spirit, the "Unction" from God (Yahweh) is our Teacher. And he works from INSIDE our spirits to TEACH us. He teaches us directly as he talks to and reveals the TRUTH to us. And primarily, he teaches through the ministers of the Lord Jesus. In particular, the pastors, as they FEED God's WORD to the lambs and Sheep that belong to Jesus. (John 21:15-17, Acts 20:25-31, Ephesians 4:11-16)

John 14:26, But the Comforter, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **TEACH you** ALL things, and bring all things to **your remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.

In his work to "edify (build up Christians in spiritual knowledge, enlightening the MIND God (Yahweh) also will use the members of the body who have learned. (Eph. 4:11-16) That's the PURPOSE of this LETTER written to the Hebrews. But, we must value truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-2, All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is **profitable for doctrine (TEACHING)**, for **reproof (conviction: evidence)**, for **CORRECTION**, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be **perfect (fresh** [untainted; invaluable, USEFUL]), thoroughly furnished unto **ALL** good works.

I **CHARGE** thee **therefore** (for this reason) before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall **JUDGE** the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **PREACH the WORD**; be **INSTANT** in **season**, out of **season**; **reprove (convince, tell a fault)**, **REBUKE**, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves **teachers**, having itching ears; and they shall **TURN AWAY** *their* ears

FROM the **TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto **fables (fiction: "myth")**.

Instant defined 2186, be PRESENT; assault [AGGRESSIVE, attacking (teachings and thinking; not people) by WORDS, arguments with a view to shake, impair or overthrow].

Revelation 3:19, And unto the **angel (PASTOR)** of the church of the Laodiceans... As many as **I LOVE, I REBUKE** and **chasten (EDUCATE)**: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Hebrews 12:6, For whom the Lord **LOVETH HE chasteneth (educate, instruct, teach)**, and **SCOURGETH every son (CHILD)** whom he receiveth.

SCOURGE, AFFLICT (GRIEVE, or distress) for SINS or FAULTS, and with the purpose of correction.

Thought 1. In December of 1974, an example of this took place in my life. I was home, out of the military as God, our Father had instructed me. While meditating on, and being reminded by him of his goodness to me, even to save me from death on several occasions, in spite of how wrong I had been, I heard him say, "I DON'T DESERVE HOW YOU'RE TREATING ME." As I looked at his goodness, and heard those words, I became greatly ASHAMED (affected by SHAME, a **PAINFUL sensation** excited by a consciousness of GUILT, or of having done something which injures reputation), and I found myself saying, "From this day forward, I'll obey you." As I spoke those words, I actually FELT like a piece of dirt, and felt like crawling under the table! But AFTER I spoke them in repentance, I FELT God's PEACE and JOY again!

The next month, January of 1975, I was filled by his Spirit, and in March of '75, at the end of a three day fast, he revealed to me that I was a minister of the gospel. So, even though I had a lot to **LEARN**, in obedience to him, I accepted his will for my life.

Romans 2:4, Or despisest thou the RICHES of his GOODNESS and forbearance and longsuffering; **NOT knowing** that the **GOODNESS** of God **leadeth thee to repentance?**

Proverbs 16:6, By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the **FEAR (reverence)** of the Lord men **depart FROM evil.**

Thought 2. Now, let's look at the belief among us that the **evil experiences** that we SUFFER are the Lord's "chastening and scourging" for our good to teach us. As we saw earlier, the EVIL that came upon Israel during their times of SIN, was UNDER the Old Covenant. Under the New Covenant, we do NOT see our Father using those things to correct his children. Nor is the Lord's scourging "PERSECUTIONS" like Jesus, Paul and ALL who are saved experience. Both Jesus and Paul explained WHY they occur.

John 15:18-21, If the world **hate you**, ye know it hated me **BEFORE** it **hated** you. If ye were OF the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are NOT of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world **hateth** you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If (SINCE) **they have persecuted me**, they **WILL** (NOT must) also **PERSECUTE** you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they **KNOW NOT** him that sent me.

Persecute defined 1377, to pursue (lit. or fig.).

Persecute, 1. to pursue in a manner to injure, vex or afflict; to harass with unjust punishment or penalties for supposed offenses; 2. to afflict, harass, or destroy (kill) for adherence to a particular creed (belief)...

2 Timothy 3:10-12, But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of LIFE,

purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, **PERSECUTIONS**, afflictions, which came unto **me** at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them ALL the Lord delivered me. Yea, and **ALL** that **WILL (desire) live godly** in Christ Jesus **SHALL** (*he did NOT say must*) suffer persecution.

Thought 3. We must understand that sickness, death and other EVILS, like Job experienced, do NOT happen because God is “scourging” his children. If these things happen in a Christian’s life, it’s because THEY gave Satan “place” (permission) in their lives (Eph. 4:27) by NOT being watchful: walking in God’s wisdom, OR they did in fact SIN, so eventually, God “**JUDGED them.**” Remember Ananias and his wife?

Ephesians 4:27, Neither give **place (licence** [license, permission to act]) to the devil

Acts 5:1-5 ...Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part... ..laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath **Satan** filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ...why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words **fell down**, and **gave up the ghost**...

1 Corinthians 11:27-31, Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, **unworthily (irreverently** [irreverent { showing a want of reverence manner]), shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh **unworthily (irreverently)**, eateth and drinketh **damnation (JUDGMENT)** to himself, NOT discerning (make distinction) the Lord's body. For this cause many are WEAK and SICKLY among you, and many **sleep (be DEAD)**. For if we would **judge** ourselves, we should not **be judged**.

Thought 4. Actually, there are TWO accounts of extreme “scourging” of children of God in the Bible under the New Covenant. They clearly show HOW he deals with those children that REFUSE to be CORRECTED by TEACHING and light “scourging.”

The first involves a man in fornication written of in 1 Corinthians 5. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul spoke God’s wisdom for SINS that required this type of scourging.

1 Corinthians 5:1-3, It is reported commonly that there is **FORNICATION** among you, and such fornication as is NOT so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should **have his father's wife**. And ye are puffed up, and have NOT rather **mourned**, that he that hath done this **deed** might be **taken away** FROM among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have **judged already**, as though I were present, concerning **him** that hath so DONE this deed...

Fornication defined 1608, (indulge unlawful lust (of EITHER SEX)); to be utterly unchaste (Lewd, involving unlawful sexual desire;

1 Corinthians 5:4-5, In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the **power** of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the **destruction** (discontinuance) of the **FLESH**, that the spirit may be **saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Flesh defined 4561, human nature with its frailties [physically OR morally] and PASSIONS [DESIRES, emotions, FEELINGS].

Thought 5. Paul is referring to DESIRES and FEELINGS that pertain to the flesh (our old nature: human nature, which we no longer have. But, though it’s gone, our MINDS need to be renewed and those desires and feelings, put to death. The problem here is that this man has NOT done so.

He likes the devils' "stuff", so, God's wisdom is put him out of fellowship and LET him "RUN WITH" the Devil! And when he SUFFERS due to his choice, and no fellowship from the church, like the prodigal son, perhaps he'll come to himself and repent. Well, the church put him out and Satan caused him to SUFFER. And that PAIN, plus NO fellowship, brought him to repentance.

1 Timothy 1:18-20, This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which SOME having put away concerning **faith** have made **shipwreck**: Of whom is **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**; whom I have **DELIVERED unto Satan**, that they may LEARN NOT to blaspheme.

Hebrews 12:7, *If ye endure (stay under) CHASTENING, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what SON is he whom the father CHASTENETH not?*

Chastening and Chasteneth defined 3811, TRAIN UP a child, i.e. EDUCATE, OR (by implication), discipline (by punishment):--chasten(-ise), instruct, learn, teach.

Hebrews 12:8, *But if ye be without CHASTISEMENT, whereof ALL are partakers, then are ye BASTARDS, and NOT sons.*

Chastisement defined 3809, tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary CORRECTION:-- instruction, nurture.

Bastards defined 3541, a spurious (not legitimate [lawfully begotten or born]).

NOTE: Then are ye bastards - This proceeds on the general fact, that bastards are neglected in their manners and education; the fathers of such, **feeling** little **affection** for, or obligation to regard, their spurious issue. But all that are legitimate children are partakers of chastisement or discipline; for the original word παιδεία does not imply stripes and punishments, but the whole discipline of a child, both at home and at school. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/hebrews-12.html>)

Hebrews 12:9-10, *Furthermore we have had **fathers** of our flesh which **CORRECTED us**, and we gave them **reverence**: shall we not MUCH RATHER be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and LIVE? For they verily for a few days **CHASTENED us** after their **own pleasure**; but he for our PROFIT, that we might be partakers of **HIS holiness**.*

Chastened defined 3811, TRAIN UP a child, i.e. EDUCATE, OR (by implication), discipline (by punishment):--chasten(-ise), instruct, learn, teach.

Hebrews 12:11, *Now no CHASTENING for the present seemeth to be JOYOUS, but **grievous**: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of **righteousness** unto them which are **exercised** thereby.*

Chastening defined 3809, tutorage, i.e. education or training; by impli., disciplinary CORRECTION:-- instruction, nurture.

Hebrews 12:12-13, *Wherefore LIFT UP the **hands** which hang down, and the **feeble knees**; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be **HEALED**.*

Healed defined 2390, cure (RESTORE to health, soundness, or SANITY [soundness of health of body or MIND, especially of the MIND]).

Isaiah 35:3, Strengthen ye the WEAK hands, and **confirm (make strong)** the FEEBLE knees.