

HEBREWS 8

1. What is faith?

-Faith is belief.

2. What is important to know about belief?

-It is the object of belief which is most important.

-It is what you believe which is most important.

3. What are two important questions when talking to others about faith?

-Is it true what you believe?

-How do you know that it is true?

4. What does Hebrews 11:1 tell us what faith is?

-Faith is being sure of what we do not see.

5. Does obedience go together with faith?

-Yes.

-They are twin brothers.

-If you believe, then you will obey.

-If you do not believe, then you will not obey.

6. How do we please God?

-By believing in Him.

7. Is our faith in ourselves our righteousness?

-No.

-It is our faith in God that is our righteousness.

8. Why is the world not worthy of the believers mentioned in Hebrews 11:32-38?

-Because their faith in God was better than anything that the world could offer.

Let's read Hebrews 12:1-3

1-Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

2-fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3-Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

-What is the cloud of witnesses?

-It is believers in God mentioned in the previous chapter, Hebrews 11, who had a strong faith in God.

-By understanding the faith of these Old Testament believers, their faith will encourage our faith.

-What is "the sin that so easily entangles us"?

-A lack of belief in God.

-How do we best overcome “the sin that so easily entangles us”?

-By fixing our eyes on the Lord Jesus.

-The Lord Jesus is not only the Author or Pioneer of our faith, but He will also make our faith perfect one day.

-When we have problems, we should remember the example of the Lord Jesus on the cross.

-Christ rejected the shame of being crucified, even though He had done nothing wrong, knowing that glory awaited Him in heaven.

Let’s read Hebrews 12:4-6

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

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.”

-For all people including Christians and non-Christians, what is our biggest struggle?

-Our struggle against sin.

-Are non-Christians stronger than sin?

-No.

-Are Christians stronger than sin?

-No.

-Who alone is stronger than sin?

-God/Christ.

-Why does a father discipline his son?

-Because he does not want his son to become full of sin.

-Because he wants the best for his son.

-Because he loves his son.

-Why does God discipline His people?

-Because He does not want us to become full of sin.

-Because He wants the best for us.

-Because He loves us.

-As Hebrews 12:6 teaches us, God disciplines those He loves.

Let’s read Hebrews 12:7-11

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.

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.

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.

-Does God give us troubles?

-No. God is perfect.

-Does God allow us to have troubles?

-Yes.

-Even though God does not give us troubles, He allows us to have troubles.

-Why does God allow us to have troubles?

-To teach us or to discipline us.

-When we have troubles, the Word of God encourages us to endure them as discipline.

-How can troubles be discipline from God?

-They help us to call on God when we are in trouble.

-They help us to repent when we sin.

-They keep us from wanting to sin even more.

-They teach us about God and His desire for us to be holy.

-Although God disciplines His children, why will He never condemn us?

-Because we are in Christ.

-God's discipline gives us life.

-God's discipline gives us holiness.

Let's read Hebrews 12:12-13

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.

-Because life is difficult, we must encourage one another.

-By encouraging one another, this will heal the lame, that is, those who are spiritually lame.

-By encouraging one another, this will also strengthen us.

-We are most strengthened when we encourage others.

Let's read Hebrews 12:14-17

14-Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

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.

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.

-People are not holy.

-Our holiness comes from God alone.

-It is only when we believe in Christ and receive His holiness will we see the Lord.

-Yet, if we allow God to be completely God in our lives, He will be our peace and our holiness.

-A bitter root is a lack of forgiveness, and even if others continue to hurt us, we must forgive others so that we might have peace with God.

-Even though Esau had most of his life to repent, he still refused to repent.

-To not repent means that you are without God.

-Now, the Word of God teaches us about two mountains.

-The first mountain was the mountain of fear.

Let's read Hebrews 12:18-21

18-You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm;

19-to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them,

20-because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death."

21-The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

-What was the mountain burning with fire that even Moses was trembling with fear?

-It was Mount Sinai that Israel came to after leaving Egypt.

-Why were all of Israel and even Moses trembling with fear?

-Because God was coming down onto the mountain.

-On the mountain, the burning fire, darkness, gloom, storm, trumpet blast, and the voice of God are all pictures of the holiness of God.

-Even an animal was to be stoned to death if it would touch the mountain.

-This is the extreme holiness of our God.

-Now the Word of God teaches us about the second mountain:

Let's read Hebrews 12:22-24

22-But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

23-to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24-to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

-What is the second mountain?

-Mount Zion, the mountain of joy.

-This is the city of God, Jerusalem, in heaven.

-Mount Sinai and Mount Zion are pictures.

-What are the two mountains a picture of?

-Mount Sinai is a picture of the holiness of God whom no one can approach because of our sinfulness.

-Mount Zion is a picture of joy that we have when we are reunited with God because of the death of Christ.

-All non Christians are still at Mount Sinai, separated from God and trying to please God by what they do, but will never be able to do so.

-All true Christians are now at Mount Zion, having believed in Christ alone as their salvation, and therefore, reunited with God.

-Why must we come to Mount Sinai first before we come to Mount Zion?

-Without our understanding of Mount Sinai, we will not look for nor find Mount Zion.

-Without our understanding of the holiness of God, we will think that we are acceptable to God without His help.

-We need to understand the holiness of God so that we understand that we cannot save ourselves so that we can run to Christ to be saved.

-Having run to Christ, we arrive at Mount Zion.

-Mount Sinai teaches that sinful man cannot come near to God and live.

-Mount Zion teaches that God has prepared for all who believe in Christ a place where we can live with God.

-Mount Sinai is a picture of the old agreement which teaches us that only God is able to save us.

-Mount Zion is a picture of the new agreement which teaches us that God will save and has saved those who believe in Him alone.

Let's read Hebrews 12:25-27

25-See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

26-At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27-The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

-At Mount Sinai, even though God shook the earth around the mountain and the people became afraid, Israel refused to listen to Moses, and died in the desert.

-In the future, God will shake the heavens and all of the earth.

-The sun will become black, the moon will become red, the stars will fall from the sky, and the mountains will be moved (Rev 6:12-14).

-If Israel did not escape when they did not listen to Moses, how much more will people not escape if they do not listen to God.

-God will remove all that can be shaken which is the physical world so that the spiritual, eternal world will remain.

Let's read Hebrews 12:28-29

28-Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

29-for our "God is a consuming fire."

-We Christians will receive an eternal kingdom which can never be shaken.

-For those who do not believe, they will be consumed in the fire of the wrath of God against sin.