

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #23, Chapter 12:14-21

Read Chapter 12 asking the Lord for His help as you seek to apply it to your life.

1. What are the Hebrew believers commanded in verse 14?

2. Define *pursue* (NIV *make every effort*; KJV *follow* [Strong's #1377]).

3. Take a look at the practical ways we can pursue peace. What do you learn from Gen. 13:7-9; Ps. 34:12-14; Prov. 17:14; 19:11; Rom. 12:9-18; 14:16-19; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:1-3?

4. We are also to pursue *sanctification* (KJV, NIV *holiness* [Strong's #38]). Just what is that?

5. What is the connection between sanctification and seeing the Lord? See John 3:3; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Jn. 3:2-3.

6. What is the first thing we should see to according to verse 15?
 - a. What does the phrase, "see to it that no one comes short of the grace of God" mean? See Heb. 4:1-3; 6:11-12; 10:23-25 for help.

- b. In our efforts to obey this command where should our search begin? See 1 Cor. 13:5 and 2 Pet. 1:10-11.

7. Next, verse 15 tells us to see to something else. What is it?

8. Where does it originate? See Mark 7:20-22.

9. Where and how must the battle be waged? See Ps. 119:9-11, 33-35, 133.

10. What does bitterness lead to if allowed to continue (verse 15)? What is the result?

11. From verse 16, describe the third group of people we are to watch out for. Who are they and who are they compared to?

12. How did that person's actions reveal his true spiritual state (verses 16-17)?

13. Reexamine the situation the Hebrew believers were facing. To get you started, reread 2:1-3, 17-18; 3:12-13; 4:14-16; 5:12-14; 6:9-12; 10:23-25, 32-39; 11:13-16; 12:1-5, 10-13.

14. Based upon your review of the Hebrews' situation and the immediate context of 12:12-13, why would the commands of verses 14-16 be necessary?
15. This message is as much for us as it was for the Hebrew believers. The things we are commanded to watch for in others, we must also watch for in ourselves. Take some time right now with the Lord to do an inventory of your heart.
- a. Are you growing in a peaceful, quiet spirit? What things hinder you from growing more steadfast in these qualities?
 - b. Are you growing in holiness? Consider what choices you can make to protect and guard your heart, while also strengthening it in holiness.
 - c. Are you sure of the grace of God at work in your life? Why?
 - d. Are you bitter or resentful about something? If so, what is at the root of that sinful response? What biblical truths do you need to apply?
 - e. Are you a troublemaker in some area of your life? Consider ways you can guard against a rash spirit.
 - f. Are you acting immorally, like a godless person? In what ways can you shore up your heart against sinful temptations and repent of your immorality?
 - g. Is your repentance real, whether in salvation or in turning away from a specific sin? What does real repentance look like?
 - h. Why bother answering these questions? See Hebrews 12:1-2.

16. In Hebrews 12:18-21, the author of Hebrews recounts what happened to Israel when God's glory descended upon Mt. Sinai. Read verses 18-21, then read the original account to fill in the gaps from Ex. 19:9-13, 16-20; 20:18-21; Deut. 4:10-13; 5:22-29; 9:15-19.
17. From the verses you just read in question #16, answer the following questions:
What is Israel's situation?
- a. What will happen if someone touches the mountain?
 - b. Why is Israel to stay back from the mountain?
 - c. How does Israel respond to God's glory?
18. The point of verses 18-24 will come into full view in next week's lesson. For now, let's take a look at the comparison being made between the two mountains mentioned in verses 18 and 22. What is the distinction between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion? Where can Mt. Sinai be found (Ex. 19:2)? Where can Mt. Zion be found (verse 22)?
19. Which mountain is to be preferred and why?