

DISCUSSION IDEAS
ATTITUDE THE KEY TO ENDURANCE

Hebrews 12:3-17

June 21st, 2015

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What did we discuss last week from Hebrews 12:1-2?

Try to remember some of the issues involved in successfully running a race.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE.**

Looking back at Hebrews 11, how does the idea of learning to truly TRUST God involve effort on our part?

NOTE: Faith is Trust.

Can Trust be really learned without practice?

How does the idea of putting out effort, working to accomplish something, relate to inconvenience, and even pain or suffering?

I do not like pain. I do not like suffering. Is there anything that can make putting up with pain or suffering worthwhile?

What about my perspective – my ATTITUDE?

Read Heb. 12:3-11, and as you do that, look for answers to the above questions.

"Resisting" is mentioned. Resisting what?

How does God's love relate to His allowing us to go through difficult times?

Talk about the idea of becoming bitter or better.

Talk about the difference between denial, and a change of attitude.

Interesting aside: I find it interesting that the New Testament meaning of the word "repentance" is "to change (your) mind".

We had to change our mind to originally put our trust in Jesus.

How does that relate to our attitude in following Him?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: DISCIPLINE / TRAINING.**

In verses 3-11, your version of the Bible probably uses either the word "discipline" or "chastening".

As you read this, how does the context show whether training or punishment is in view?

If you were among the original readers of this letter, there would be no confusion at all. The Greek language has two other different words for punishment, and two more words for verbal instruction.

Here, the word used refers to training and correction by actions, not just words.

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Take a moment to discuss the example from the message about training runners on a sand dune.

It may have been thought of as a "punishing" experience, but was punishment any part of the intent?

What was the intent?

How was enduring suffering part of this experience?

How did that strengthen the runners?

How would a lecture and a discussion time have worked as a substitute training event?

What was the ultimate result when this training was applied in a real contest?

Look at verse 7 – Many of the translations are confusing here.

The NIV and the NET Bible translations give clearer translation of the original meaning: "Endure (your suffering) as training."

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT?**

Review verses 7-11.

What does verse 11 state as our prize, our end benefit?

How much do we want these benefits?

How does anger or bitterness towards bad times rob us of these benefits?

♦ **REFLECTION: SO, WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE?**

Consider how the Apostle Paul's life was changed.

Look at Philippians 1:21 and Philippians 4:10–13. Do I want to be like this?

Look at James 1:2–4. How does my intentionally making a choice of attitude fit in.

Take time to read the conclusions God presents in Heb. 12: 12-17.

In verses 12-13, who is being helped, just me, or am I to help others?

How are the sins mentioned related to attitude?

Interesting note: In v. 16, most translations say that Esau was immoral and "godless" or "unholy". The actual word used means "meaningless", "senseless", "pathetic", "absurd", "irrelevant" and "futile".

How well does that describe me if I just live for myself?

How will my attitude affect my ability to help and encourage others?

P.S. How can I be of help if I do not know their concerns?