

Faint Not *Hebrews 12:1-4*

“Compare your sufferings for His sake with His suffering for you, and you will be ashamed of yourself for ever complaining of repining. It has not yet cost us our blood. We have not yet suffered anything by comparison for our stand for Christ. Lost a few friends? Yes. Made fun of and despised? Yes. Suffered material loss for our testimony? Probably. But have they ever stripped you and beaten you? Have they put a crown of thorns on your head? Has anyone ever spit in your face because of your faithfulness to Christ? Have your hand and feet ever been nailed to the cross? How insignificant the puny sacrifices we are called to make! Laying aside some easily dispensable weights of a social, material or religious nature, and giving up sins which scar and curse the soul are not sacrifices. What if you would have to pay the price of the martyrs, the faithful missionaries, the saints of former days who sealed their testimony with their blood! It seems to me that it should be easy to say in light of this: All to Jesus I surrender; all to leave and follow thee. M.R. DeHaan

- I. The Christian life was never meant to be lived without the author and perfecter of our faith, Jesus Christ. His indwelling assures that. Yet His indwelling does not necessarily ensure living a victorious Christian life. That is why we are told to keep our eyes on Jesus, the Captain of our salvation and faith. The very essence of faith means that we depend on Jesus to live His life through us. He must, if we expect to stand firm for righteousness in the days we are living in. Never before has the church been challenged for its stand on purity like it is today. Is it a test from God? Will we run the race and fight the good fight well and with perseverance? What is God trying to teach us? Are we like the church of Sardis who needed to wake up (Rev. 3:1-6), or are we like the church of Philadelphia who kept Jesus’ commands and endured patiently (Rev. 10)?

Heb. 12:1-2

Heb. 10:32-35

aphoraō *It is the verb **oraw** to look with understanding with the prepositional prefix **ἀπό** attached to it, which means separation, of any kind of separation of one thing from another by which the union or fellowship of the two is destroyed. The fellowship that is destroyed is not between the believer and Christ, but between anything that would take our gaze off Him.*

“Jesus does not want to be our helper; He wants to be our life. He does not want us to work for Him. He wants us to let Him do His work through us, using us as we use a pencil to write with—better still, using us as one of the fingers on His hand.” Trumbull

Gal. 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- II. The verb “**consider**” in Hebrews 12:3 is an imperative. An imperative *expresses a command to the hearer to perform a certain action by the order and authority of the one commanding*. The tense of the verb “**consider**” tells us that having begun at salvation we are to carry it on to completion, i.e., throughout our faith pilgrimage. We are to consider what he willingly did for us. We are to consider the opposition he faced to accomplish our salvation and we are to consider what he endured for the sake of our souls. The reason we are commanded to consider Him, is so that when we face opposition for our stand for Christ, we can compare what Jesus went through to what we are going through. It will help us to endure knowing that He suffered far greater than we ever will.

Heb. 12:3

John 14:6

John 3:19

- III. Jesus looks for those who are mature in the faith. He looks for those who will not grow weary or become faint hearted over the opposition they will face for staying true to Him. He knows and has lived endurance and we must too. He was not blindsided by the sin of man, and neither should we. He expected a violent response for His stand for righteousness and we must too. He knew it would cost him His life and we must be willing to let it cost us our life. What these verses are saying to us is, “*Show yourself worthy of the sacrifice that men and God have made for you.*” Barclay

Heb. 12:4

Heb. 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.