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Hebrews 12:1-11

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, laying aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

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⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; ⁵ and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,

AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not

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⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our* good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. (Hebrews 12:1-11)

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Endure Like Jesus (12:1-3)

- He is fully sufficient to bring us to the finish line – "the pioneer and perfecter of faith"
- He is the supreme example of faithful endurance in suffering – we follow in His steps

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Perspectives on Suffering

1. The limited nature of our suffering

- we have not yet been called to suffer to the extent that Christ suffered for us
- we are continually striving against all forces that pressure us to turn away from Christ

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Perspectives on Suffering

2. The loving discipline of our Father

- Proverbs 3:11-12
 - we must see and endure sufferings as the form of God's fatherly, formative discipline
 - "discipline" – God's difficult, painful method of training and instruction (not punitive)

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Perspectives on Suffering

➤ Implications

1. Sufferings are under God's sovereign control in accord with His good designs for us
 - sufferings are not random, meaningless or merely the result of hostile forces
 - do not belittle these sufferings as pointless or lose heart at their severity

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Perspectives on Suffering

➤ Implications

2. Sufferings are the demonstration of our sonship and the loving Fatherhood of God
 - it is of the very essence of sonship to be disciplined by a father

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