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Hebrews 12:12-17

¹² Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

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Hebrews 12:12-17

¹⁴ With all pursue peace, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord, ¹⁵ seeing to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; ¹⁶ that *there be* no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a *single* meal. ¹⁷ For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

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Endurance in Community

➤ Hebrews 12:1-11: *Run with Endurance*

- 1) Endure like Jesus – He enables and exemplifies endurance in the face of great suffering
- 2) Endure as Discipline – endure suffering as God's fatherly, formative discipline

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Endurance in Community

1. Straighten Up

- we must not surrender through discouragement to strong resistance or intense suffering (cf. Is. 35:3)
- those who are strong must seek to encourage and strengthen those members who are weak (cf. Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25)

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¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

² Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. (Romans 15:1-2)

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¹ Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:1-2)

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¹⁴ We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

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Endurance in Community

2. Straighten Out

- do not turn aside from the path that Jesus has both opened and completed to the heavenly Zion
- your example of faithful obedience and endurance will encourage the weak and wounded not to turn aside in unbelief

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Endurance in Community

➤ Specific Application

- Be intentionally involved in mutual encouragement with other members (e.g. small group)
- Pursue members who are struggling or drifting in their faith

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