



## Don't Get Discouraged and Give Up

Text Hebrews 12:1-13  
Sermon Text Hebrew 12: 3,5-12 19

The word discouragement means "to lose heart." The word for heart in French is La Coeur, so when your heart is not in it, there is no passion. Life seems flat, hope appears fleeting, answers are difficult to receive, and there is a sense that nothing is going right. In moments like these it makes you want to give up. The Christian life involves hard work. It requires us to relinquish whatever endangers our relationships with God, to run patiently, and to struggle against sin with the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we face hardships and discouragement, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture. But we're not alone; there is help. Many have already made it through life, enduring for more difficult circumstances than we have experienced. Suffering is the training ground for Christian maturity. It develops our patience and makes our final victory sweet. The Hebrew writer is teaching a timeless message when he writes in verse 3 "keep your thoughts and mind on Jesus, who endured insults and opposition from sinful men." If your mind is stayed on Jesus you will not become so discouraged that you give up. The writer continues by informing us, that we are God's children and because He loves us He will discipline, correct, and chastise His own. The lesson for us to learn is that when God corrects us don't take it lightly and feel you want to give up. Verse 7 says "endure hardship as discipline" or be patient when you are being corrected, because this is how God treats His children.

Whatever you are negatively experiencing right now, in your life, **do not** feel that God has abandoned, forgotten, or left you alone. Realize, as difficult as it may seem, that His discipline is a sign of His deep love for you. When God corrects you, see it as proof of His love and ask Him what He is trying to teach you.

There are several ways which we respond to God's discipline:

1. We can accept it for what it is
2. We can accept it with self-pity thinking we really don't deserve it.
3. We can be angry and resentful toward God; or
4. We can accept it gratefully, as the appropriate response we have a loving Father.

When you become discouraged, down hearted, and ready to give up, know that you can accomplish your goals when you surrender your will and depend on God's strength. He knows your every need, want, and desire and when you have endured your trials you will be brought forth as pure gold. Isaiah says "when you cross deep rivers, I will be with you and you won't drown. When you walk through the fire, you won't be burned or scorched by the flames" (Isaiah 43:2). It doesn't say you won't go through the water or fire, but if you do not become discouraged, God will bring you through without drowning or being burned.

God corrects us for our own good, because He wants us to be holy, as He is. (verse 10). When God puts you through the adverse challenges of life it is not easy, in fact it can be discouraging and painful but Don't Give Up!! Psalms 30:5. "At night we may cry, but when morning comes we will celebrate." Trouble doesn't last always. The significance of these trials of discipline is that when you learn what God wants you to learn and you do it, you will live righteously and at peace. (verse 11)

The words in verse 12 of this profound passage of wisdom are for you to:

1. Stand up straight – stop bowing to every breeze of this world;
2. Stop your knees from shaking – learn from the victories of defeating the enemy and know that God has brought you through and will never forsake you; and
3. Walk a straight path – repent; change your attitude; seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit; stay in prayer; study THE WORD OF GOD; and reach out to a dying world by the "undiscouraged life" in which you live and share. When you totally submit, surrender to the divine will of God expect the feeling of discouragement to invade your life, but "**DON'T EVER GIVE UP!!**"

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