

Hebrews

chapter twelve

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us ***run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith***, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

*'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,*

*6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.'*

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

8 If you are not disciplined – and everyone undergoes discipline – then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

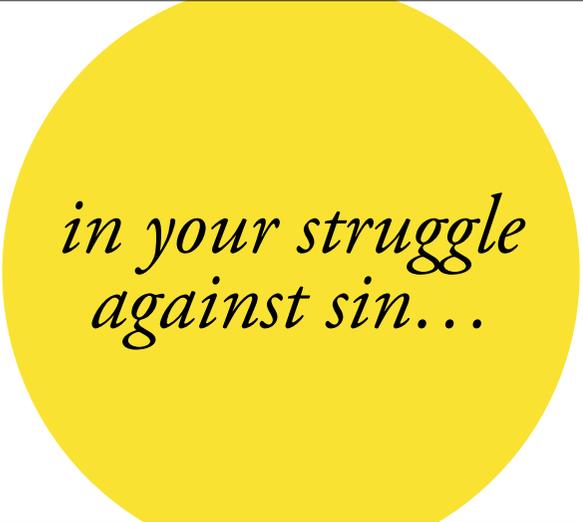
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*in your struggle
against sin...*

Why do I have to do this?

You're unfair to me!

It's not fair that this situation has happened to me.

And we feel this pressure to somehow negotiate our way out of it, or to convi



It's not fair!

Why do I have to do this?

You're unfair to me!

It's not fair that this situation has happened to me.

A lot of the time when we say "it's not fair" we're really saying why do i have go through this? why me? why can't i just do what i want?



It isn't fair!

It isn't fair —
that God should care about us.
that he should want the best for us
that he should let us

Why should the God of the universe care for us to such a point that he gives us the opportunity to struggle against sin — and in that way, make us a better person, make us the best version of ourselves — to actually live life, instead of just vegetating it.

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined — and everyone undergoes discipline — then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

12-13 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 'Make level paths for your feet,' so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

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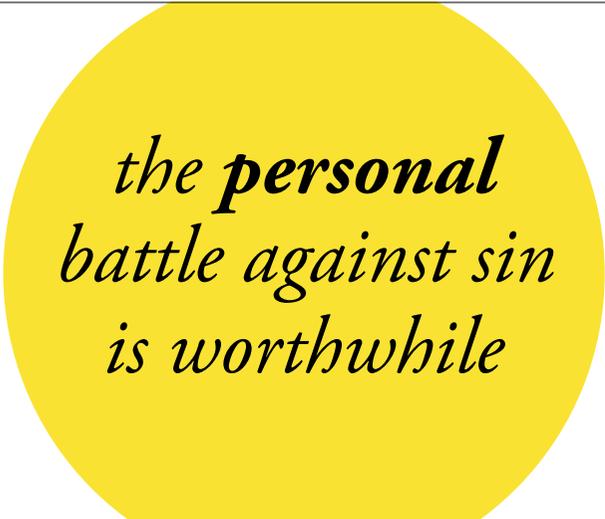
***God wants you to
learn how to walk!***

It isn't fair —
that God should care about us.
that he should want the best for us
that he should let us



*the universal
battle against sin
is victorious.*

It isn't fair —
that God should care about us.
that he should want the best for us
that he should let us



*the **personal**
battle against sin
is worthwhile*

It isn't fair —
that God should care about us.
that he should want the best for us
that he should let us



***keep going.
keep growing.***

It isn't fair —
that God should care about us.
that he should want the best for us
that he should let us



*something
amazing*

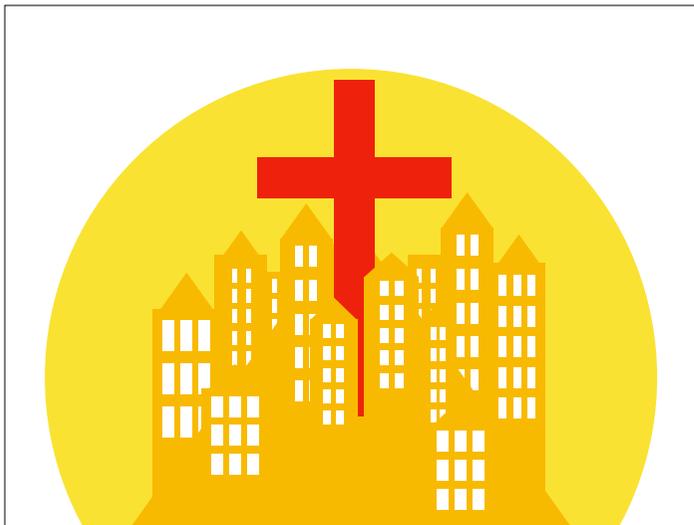


18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.' 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, 'I am trembling with fear.'

>Exodus 19

>20 The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up 21 and the Lord said to him, 'Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the Lord and many of them perish. 22 Even the priests, who approach the Lord, must consecrate themselves, or the Lord will break out against them.'

>23 Moses said to the Lord, 'The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, "Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy."'



22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?

At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

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*God's
invitation*

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' 27 The words 'once more' indicate the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things – so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

He's talking about Noah's ark — and how they weren't spared when judgement came.. if you hear and ignore or disobey, what can you do...
but God is inviting, he's imploring... he's saying come!!



*something
amazing*

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Therefore, since ***we are receiving a kingdom*** that ***cannot be shaken***, let us ***be thankful***, and so ***worship God acceptably with reverence and awe***, for our ***'God is a consuming fire.'***

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.'

We are receiving that kingdom —
An unshakeable kingdom —
When God's judgement comes again, the things we think are important will be shaken loose, and we'll see what things really are unshakeable.

The kingdom and priesthood of Christ, which are everlasting; and the good things which come by him, as remission of sins, justification, adoption, sanctification, and the heavenly inheritance; as also the Gospel, and the doctrines and ordinances of it, baptism, and the Lord's supper, and the mode of Gospel worship; all which are to continue until Christ's second coming

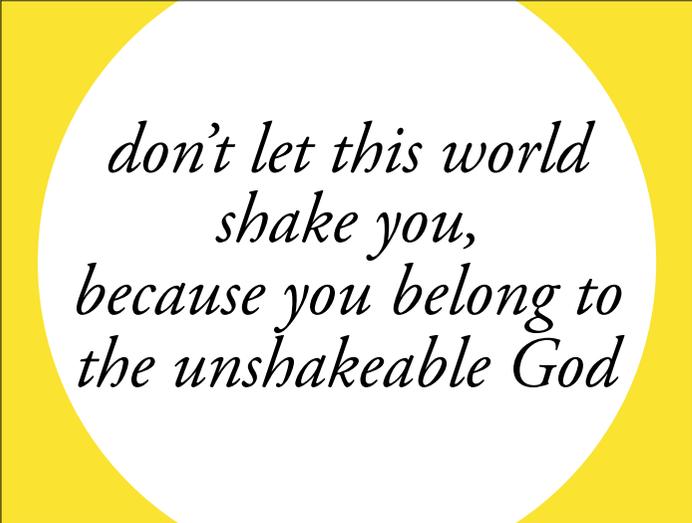
So worship God...
reverence and awe — it's the reverence and awe, that used to mean fearfully at mount sinai — but now the reverence and awe that we are receiving this amazing kingdom... that we are part of it.. that description

"You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven"

for our God is a consuming fire...
And so much comfort in the fact that God's holy fire will consume all our sins, our brokenness, our failings, and let us be presented holy citizens of his amazing kingdom...

You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Whatever you're going through,
how impossible it may seem,
how alone you may feel,
how confused you might be,



*don't let this world
shake you,
because you belong to
the unshakeable God*

be sure of this

Jesus Lives.