

---

February 19, 2012

---



born to run

let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us  
hebrews 12:1

cheer

Hebrews 12:12-29

---

## REFLECTION

---

"The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church." Tertullian

"For eighty six years have I been his servant, and he has done me no wrong, and how can I blaspheme my King who saved me."  
Polycarp at his execution

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. - Hbr 6:19-20 NIV

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hbr 10:23-25 NIV

It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. - Hbr 6:4-6 NIV

"God has pledged himself to pardon all those who truly repent, but Scripture and experience alike suggest that it is possible for human beings to arrive at a state of heart and life where they can no longer repent." FF Bruce

"I never like jazz music because Jazz music doesn't resolve. But I was outside the Baghdad Theater in Portland one night when I saw a man playing the saxophone. I stood there for fifteen minutes, and he never opened his eyes. After that, I liked jazz music. Sometimes, you have to watch someone love something before you love it."

Donald Miller, *Blue Like Jazz*

---

# LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

---

## *Introduction*

In many parts of the world, Christians are persecuted severely for their faith. How do you think persecution affects faith in Jesus? What changes come as a result of persecution?

## *Diving Into the Word*

Read Hebrews 12:12-17:

In verse 12, the readers are called to strengthen feeble arms and weak knees. What do you think that means?

In verse 13, we are to make level paths for our feet that the lame may not be disabled. Explain what you think that means.

In verse 14, live at peace with all men and be holy are put together. Can you think of any reasons? What does it mean that without holiness no one will see the Lord?

The writer recalls the story told in Genesis 25-27 about Isaac's twin sons, Jacob (the younger) and Esau (the older). Someone share the story as they remember it. Esau is called godless. Why? How does this warning apply to the Hebrews? How does it apply to our lives?

Read Hebrews 12:18-29

Hebrews 12:18-21 refers to Mount Sinai and Exodus 19 where the people were warned not to touch the mountain and where Moses received the Ten Commandments and the warnings the people were given during that episode. It contrasts that mount, with Mt. Zion, or the heavenly city. Identify the contrasts between the two. What is this contrast intended to say to the original readers and to us?

Hebrews 12:26-29 contrasts the "shaking" of Mt. Sinai with the "shaking" that will eventually come at the end of the age. Identify the contrasts. What does it mean that everything that can be shaken will be shaken?

What does it mean that God is a consuming fire?

## *Application*

Spend time in private worship this week, being thankful. Reflect on God as a consuming fire. Ask that God would remove the impurities of our heart and life.

