



Clear the Way and Run for Jesus!

Hebrews 12

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

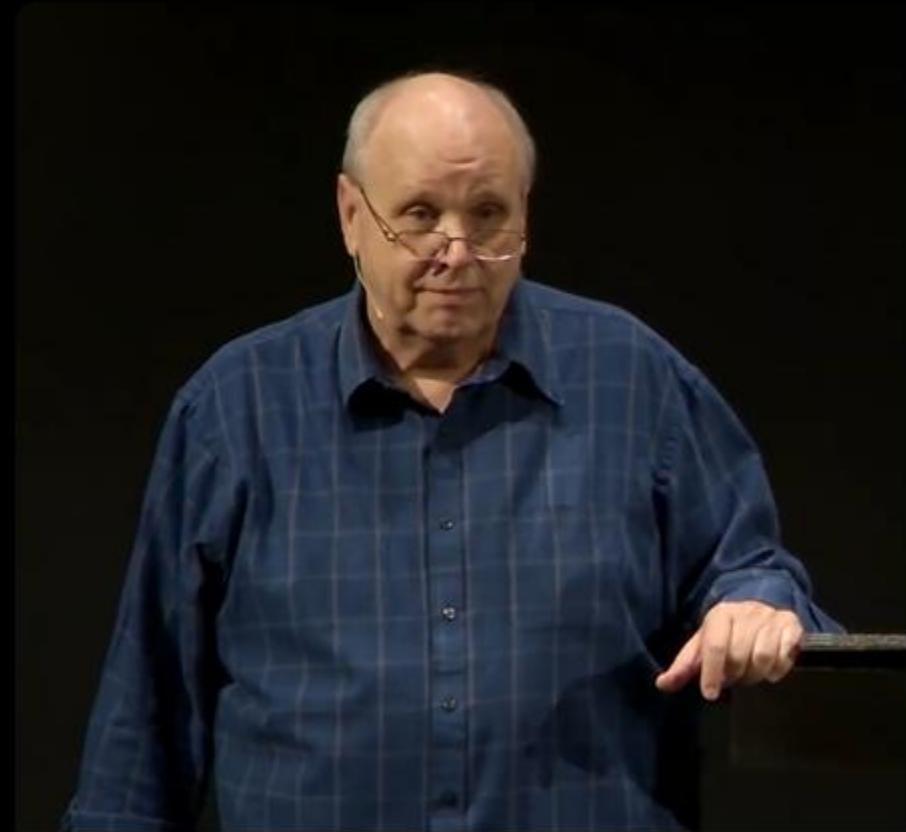


Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

1. God puts us through this hard life because he loves us and is forming holiness in us.
2. We need to run unencumbered by distraction, sin or bitterness.
3. Run in a way that watches out for your brothers and sisters.



“Faith makes what is unseen,
and our future hope so real
that it shapes the way we live.”



A photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and black shorts, jogging on a dirt path. He is looking towards the camera. The path is surrounded by tall, dry grass and leads towards a range of mountains under a clear sky.

God puts us
through hard
times because
he loves us and
is making us holy

Heb 12:5-9

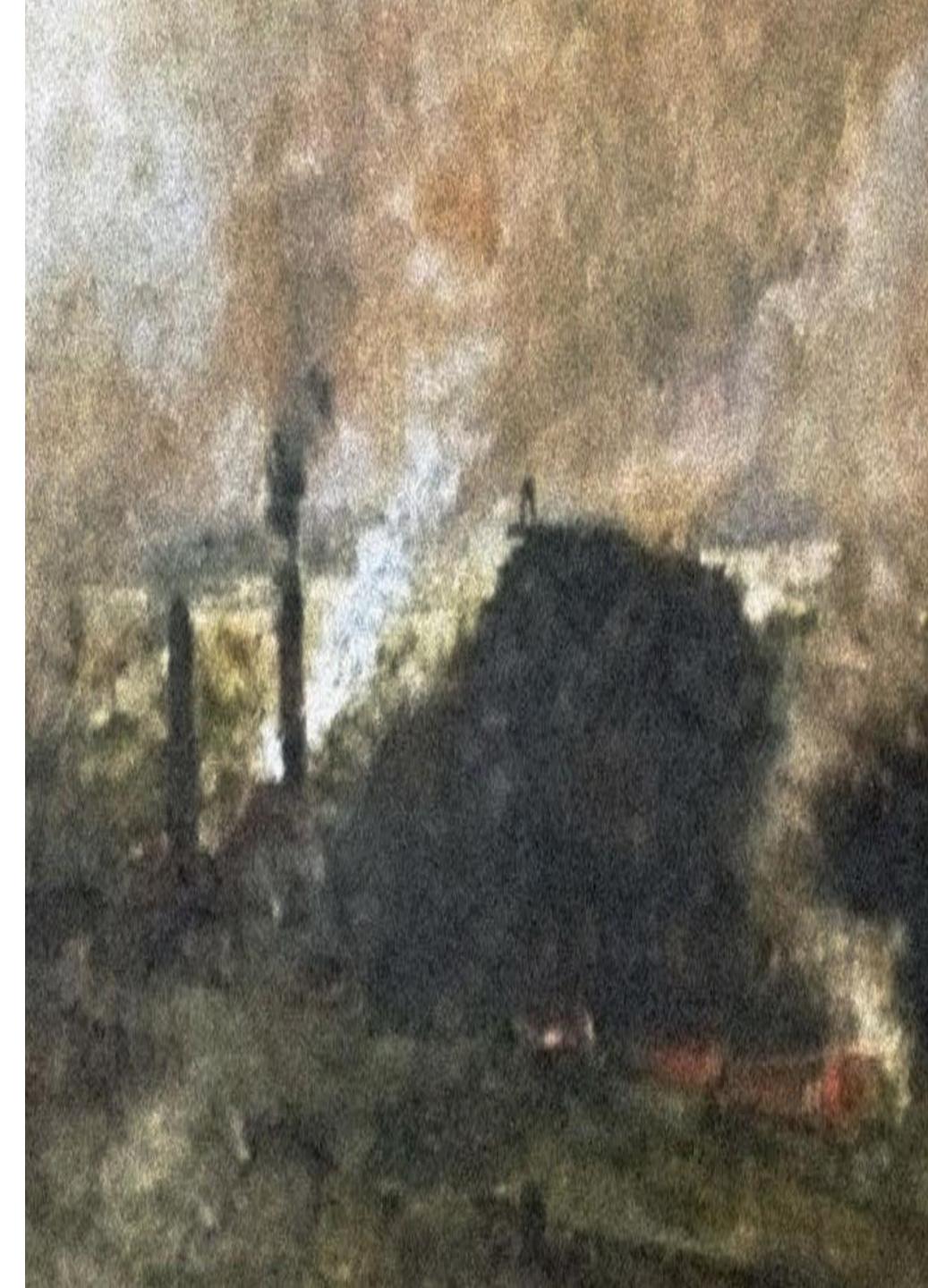


God's Discipline

- Growth and Instruction
- Develop knowledge and character
- To become what God has called us to be!

Why does God put us through hardships?

Heb 12:10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, **so that we might share in his holiness.** 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.





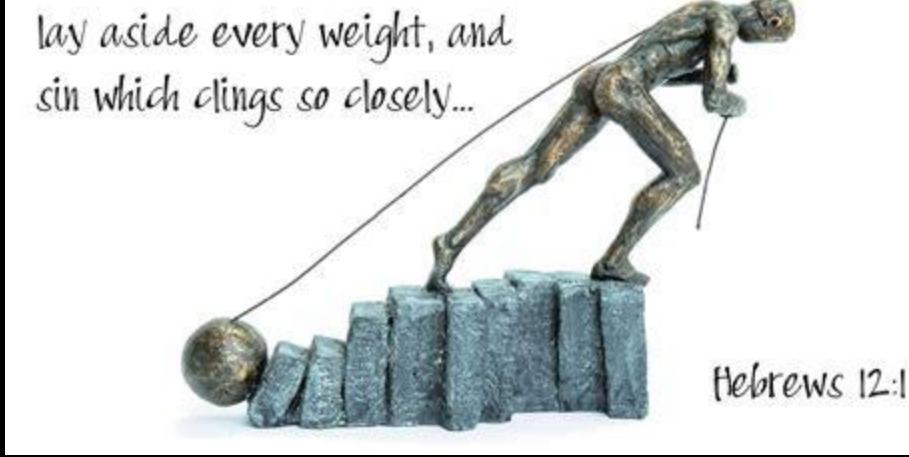
**“God is more interested
in your holiness than
your happiness.”**

We need to run unencumbered by distraction, sin, or bitterness

Heb 12:12 So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. 13 Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.



How do we get “untangled”?



Prov 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

24 Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

25 Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.

26 Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.

27 Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

THE STRAIGHT PATH



THE STRAIGHT PATH



The straight path
is a godly path

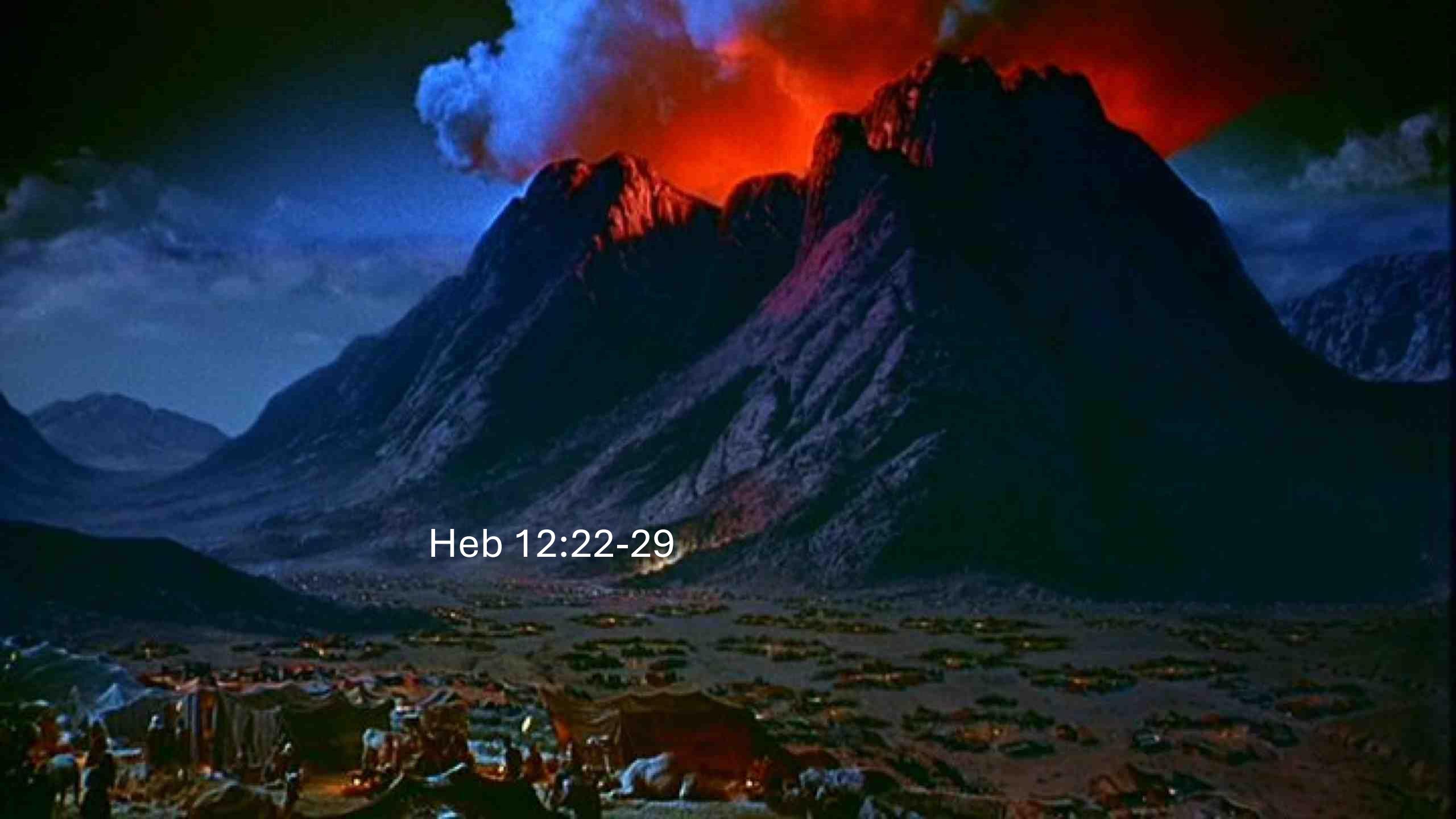
- Start a bible reading plan – even a verse a day
- Join a small group
- Connect with someone to hold you accountable

THE STRAIGHT PATH



The straight path connects us to others

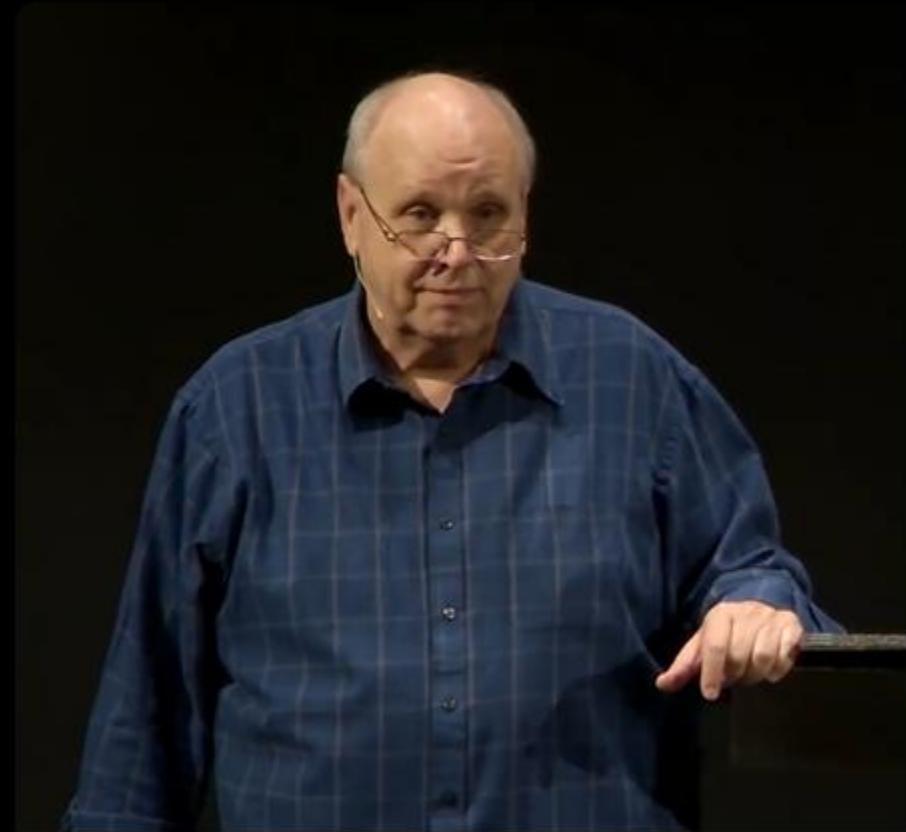
Heb 12:14 Work at **living in peace with everyone**, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. 15 **Look after each other** so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that **no poisonous root of bitterness** grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.



Heb 12:22-29

UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM

“Faith makes what is unseen,
and our future hope so real
that it shapes the way we live.”

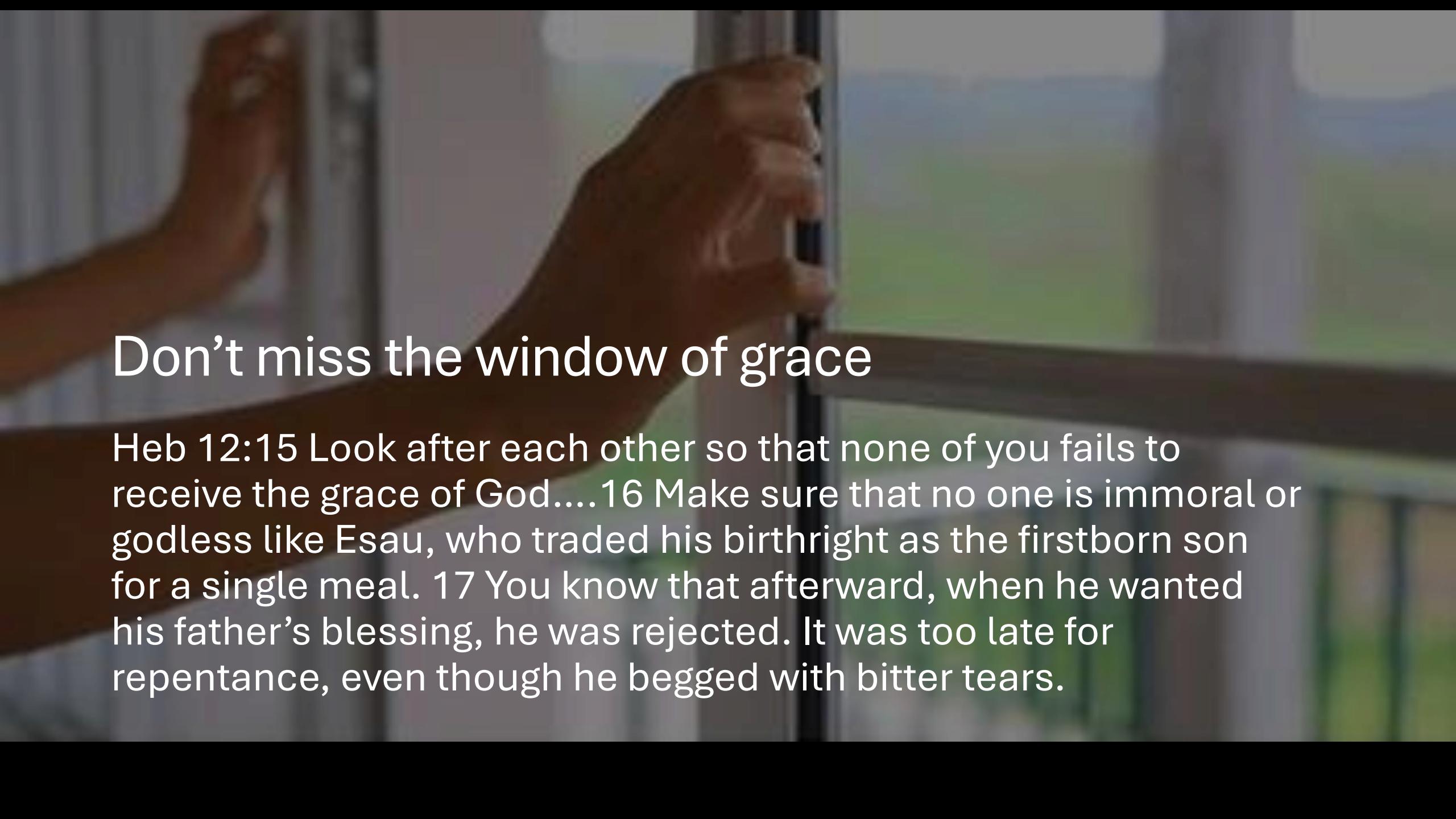


And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

Romans 12:1

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Romans 12:2

A photograph of a person's hands resting on the frame of a window. The hands are dark-skinned. Through the window, a green, hilly landscape is visible under a clear sky.

Don't miss the window of grace

Heb 12:15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God....16 Make sure that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who traded his birthright as the firstborn son for a single meal. 17 You know that afterward, when he wanted his father's blessing, he was rejected. It was too late for repentance, even though he begged with bitter tears.