

Hebrews 12:12-17

Hebrews 12:12 – “Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

1352 [e]	3588 [e]	3935 [e]	5495 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	3886 [e]	1119 [e]	461 [e]
Dio	tas	pareimenas	cheiras	kai	ta	paralelymena	gonata	anorthōsate
12 Διὸ	τὰς	παρειμένας	χεῖρας	καὶ	τὰ	παρὰλελυμένα	γόνατα	ἀνορθώσατε ,
Therefore	the	drooping	hands	and	the	enfeebled	knees	lift up
Conj	Art-AFP	V-RPM/P-AFP	N-AFP	Conj	Art-ANP	V-RPM/P-ANP	N-ANP	V-AMA-2P

1. OT references:

- Isaiah 35:3 – “Strengthen the limp hands and steady the feeble knee!”
- Ezekiel 7:17 – “Every hand will go limp, and every knee will turn to water.”
- Psalm 109:24 – “My knees are weak from fasting, and my body grows lean and gaunt.”
- Zephaniah 3:16 – “On that day they will say to Jerusalem: ‘Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands fall limp.’ ”

2. “Therefore” – *dio* – the conclusion of the discussion of discipline and hardships

3. “strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees”

- From Isaiah 35:3 where the readers are being encouraged to be strong because the Lord is coming with blessing and judgment:
- arms** are for doing – an allusion to doing the **work** of God or your “ministry”
- knees** are for walking – a image of **walking** in the right way

12:13 – “and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

1. OT references:

- Proverbs 4:26 – “Make a level path for your feet, and all your ways will be sure.”
- Isaiah 35:6 – “Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”

2532 [e]	5163 [e]	3717 [e]	4160 [e]	3588 [e]	4228 [e]	4771 [e]	2443 [e]	3361 [e]	3588 [e]	5560 [e]
kai	trochias	orthas	poieite	tois	posin	hymōn	hina	mē	to	chōlon
13 καὶ	τροχιᾶς	ὀρθᾶς	ποιεῖτε	τοῖς	ποσὶν	ὑμῶν	, ἵνα	μὴ	τὸ	χωλὸν
and	paths	straight	make	for the	feet	of you	so that	not	the	lame
Conj	N-AFP	Adj-AFP	V-PMA-2P	Art-DMP	N-DMP	PPro-G2P	Conj	Adv	Art-NNS	Adj-NNS

1624 [e]	2390 [e]	1161 [e]	3123 [e]
ektrapē	iathē	de	mallon
ἐκτραπῆ ,	ἰαθῆ	δὲ	μᾶλλον .
should be put out of joint	should be healed	however	rather
V-ASP-3S	V-ASP-3S	Conj	Adv

1. “Make level paths for your feet” is from Proverbs 4:26 and is in the context of Wisdom speaking to a young man telling him to:

- Pay attention to Wisdom’s words
- Guard your heart
- Do not talk perverse or corrupt
- Look straight ahead and fix your gaze
- Make level paths and take firm ways
- Do not swerve to the right or left
- Keep your foot from evil.

2. “so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed”

- a. “lame” are the sin sick humans
 - b. “disabled” are humans overcome with sin unable to do with their “arms” or walk with strong “knees”
 - c. “healed” are the sin sick humans who have been redeemed and empowered and are not stumbling in the crook path or a life littered with sin and opportunity for sin.
3. What are some examples of a straight path?
- a. The next verses list some of the stones that need to be removed from life’s path if you are going to enjoy the promises of God.

12:14 – “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

1515 [e]	1377 [e]	3326 [e]	3956 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	38 [e]	3739 [e]	5565 [e]	3762 [e]	3708 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]
Eirēnēn	diōkete	meta	pantōn	kai	ton	hagiasmon	hou	chōris	oudeis	opsetai	ton	Kyrion
14 Εἰρήνην	διώκετε	μετὰ	πάντων	, καὶ	τὸν	ἁγιασμόν	, οὗ	χωρὶς	οὐδεὶς	ᾧ	τὸν	Κύριον
Peace	pursue	with	all	and	-	holiness	which	without	no one	will see	the	Lord
N-AFS	V-PMA-2P	Prep	Adj-GMP	Conj	Art-AMS	N-AMS	RelPro-GMS	Prep	Adj-NMS	V-FIM-3S	Art-AMS	N-AMS

1. Romans 14:19 – “So then, let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”
2. “make every effort” is a translation of the present imperfect active of *diōkw* or *dioko*
 - a. It means “to hunt, to follow after, to pursue”.
 - b. It is an aggressive word.
 - c. We are to hunt down peace with men and holiness with God.
3. “live in peace with all men”
 - a. Not peace at any price because the next thing is “to be holy”
 - b. Romans 12:18, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”
 - c. Romans 12-13 give some good information concerning how to make level paths for your life.
4. “to be holy”
5. “without holiness no one will see the Lord”
 - a. explains why God has always wanted us to be holy.
 - b. God wants us to:
 - i. see him,
 - ii. to understand his ways,
 - iii. to be able to perceive life and all that is involved in it from the divine perspective.
 - c. If you can see God then you will be able to see God’s position and his divine view of reality.
 - d. Until we see or understand we live by faith in his revealed word.

12:15 – “See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

1983 [e]	3361 [e]	5100 [e]	5302 [e]	575 [e]	3588 [e]	5485 [e]	3588 [e]	2316 [e]	3361 [e]	5100 [e]	4491 [e]
episkopountes	mē	tis	hysterōn	apo	tēs	charitos	tou	Theou	mē	tis	rhiza
15 ἐπισκοποῦντες	μή	τις	ὑστερῶν	ἀπὸ	τῆς	χάριτος	τοῦ	Θεοῦ	, μή	τις	ρίζα
observing	lest	any	be failing	of	the	grace	-	of God	lest	any	root
V-PPA-NMP	Adv	IPro-NMS	V-PPA-NMS	Prep	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Art-GMS	N-GMS	Adv	IPro-NFS	N-NFS

4088 [e]	507 [e]	5453 [e]	1776 [e]	2532 [e]	1223 [e]	846 [e]	3392 [e]	3588 [e]	4183 [e]
pikrias	anō	phyoussa	enochlē	kai	dī	autēs	mianthōsin	hoi	polloi
πικρίας	ἄνω	φύουσα	ἐνοχλή	, καὶ	δι*	αὐτῆς*	, μὴ	πολλοί	, ρίζα
of bitterness	up	springing	should trouble [you]	and	by	this	might be defiled	the	many
N-GFS	Adv	V-PPA-NFS	V-PSA-3S	Conj	Prep	PPro-GF3S	V-ASP-3P	Art-NMP	Adj-NMP

1. “See to it” is *episkopew* or *episkopeo*
 - a. We get our word “Episcopal”
 - b. The word here means “to watch over, to watch out for.”
 - c. The word is used in Greek papyri in closing of letters and refers to people with official capacity to exercise some kind of authority.
 - d. Here it may be addressed to the leaders of the Christian community who have let their responsibility slip as their faith has declined.
 - e. It at least speaks to us each individually as being responsible for our own selves.
2. “no one misses the grace of God”
 - a. The verb tense is present tense which carries the meaning of “continuing to miss the grace of God.”
3. “no bitter root grows up” from Dt. 29:17-19 in reference to bringing idol worship and apostasy into the community.
 - a. The idea is anything that has roots and can cause trouble or defilement.
4. “to cause trouble”
5. “defile many” – In Titus 1:15 it refers to unbeliever’s minds/consciences that have been corrupted.

12:16 – “**that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.**”

3361 [e]	5100 [e]	4205 [e]	2228 [e]	952 [e]	5613 [e]	2269 [e]	3739 [e]	473 [e]	1035 [e]	1520 [e]
mē	tis	pornos	ē	bebēlos	hōs	Ēsau	hos	anti	brōseōs	mias
16 μή	τις	πόρνος	ἢ	βέβηλος	, ὡς	Ἑσαῦ	, ὅς	ἀντὶ	βρώσεως	μιάς
lest [there be]	any	fornicator	or	profane person	as	Esau	who	for	meal	one
Adv	IPro-NMS	N-NMS	Conj	Adj-NMS	Adv	N-NMS	RelPro-NMS	Prep	N-GFS	Adj-GFS

591 [e]	3588 [e]	4415 [e]	1438 [e]
apedeto	ta	prōtotokia	heautou
ἀπέδετο	τὰ	πρωτοτόκια	ἑαυτοῦ .
sold	the	birthright	of himself
V-AIM-3S	Art-ANP	N-ANP	RefPro-GM3S

1. “No one is sexually immoral” – from the Greek word *pornos* often translated “fornicator”.
2. No one “is godless” –
 - a. Esau lacked any sense of spiritual values.
 - b. He did not demonstrate:
 - i. restraint
 - ii. clear thinking when he traded his birth right.
3. Esau sold his inheritance for a single meal.
4. The way it is written Esau may be an example:
 - a. only of godlessness
 - b. or of both godlessness and sexual immorality.
5. The OT or most Jewish writing give us any example of Esau being sexually immoral but he was clearly godless in his decisions.
 - a. The Palestinian Targum says Esau came home exhausted that day because he had committed five transgressions in one day including adultery with a “betrothed maiden.”

12:17 – “**For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.**”

1492 [e] 1063 [e] 3754 [e] 2532 [e] 3347 [e] 2309 [e] 2816 [e] 3588 [e] 2129 [e] 593 [e] 3341 [e] 1063 [e]
 iste gar hoti kai metepeita thelōn klēronomēsai tēn eulogian apedokimasthē metanoias gar
 17 ἴστε γὰρ ὅτι καὶ μετέπειτα , θέλων κληρονομήσαι τὴν εὐλογίαν , ἀπέδοκίμασθη ; μετανόιας γὰρ
 You know for that even afterward wishing to inherit the blessing he was rejected of repentance for
 V-RIA-2P Conj Conj Conj Adv V-PPA-NMS V-ANA Art-AFS N-AFS V-AIP-3S N-GFS Conj

5117 [e] 3756 [e] 2147 [e] 2539 [e] 3326 [e] 1144 [e] 1567 [e] 846 [e]
 topon ouch heuren kaiper meta dakryōn ekzētēsas autēn
 τόπον οὐχ εὔρεν , καίπερ μετὰ δακρύων ἐκζητήσας αὐτήν .
 place not he found although with tears having earnestly sought it
 N-AMS Adv V-AIA-3S Conj Prep N-GNP V-APA-NMS PPro-AF3S

1. The selling of the inheritance disqualified him for the blessing.
 - a. It was not changeable.
 - b. Esau cried to have it changed but it could not be done.
2. On the Day of Judgment and even in life things are irreversible.

Some Things That Make the Path Level for All Believers

12:14	“live at <u>peace</u> with all men”	Peace – <i>Eirene</i> – “one, peace, quietness, rest”	Complete, wholeness, wellbeing with others
12:14	“be <u>holy</u> ”	Holiness – <i>hagiasmos</i> – “consecration, sanctification”	Set apart for God, for God’s purpose. Do things the way God designed, intended
12:15	“no one misses the grace of God”	Grace – <i>charis</i> – “gift of favor, kindness, blessing”	Others understanding and receiving God’s gift, favor
12:15	“no <u>bitter</u> root grows up” a. “ <u>trouble</u> ”-3 rd person singular “you”; “to disturb, annoy, to crowd in” b. “ <u>defile many</u> ”-3 rd person plural “they”; “stain, pollute”	Not Bitter – <i>pikria</i> – “bitterness”, “harshness” from <i>pikros</i> – “bitter, sharp”	A root that produces and supports the plant that bears fruit of this kind
12:16	“no one is <u>sexually immoral</u> ”	Not Sexually Immoral – <i> pornos</i> – “fornicator, prostitutes himself”	Give self to sexual desire or compromise self
12:16	“no one is <u>godless</u> ”	Not Godless – <i>bebelos</i> – from <i>baino</i> “go” and <i>belos</i> “threshold to enter building”; together mean “improper entrance” and “unfit to access or know God”	Live so as to violate God (Truth, Reality) resulting in not being able to enter or understand
12:25	“do not refuse him who speaks”	God’s Word	Spirit is speaking today