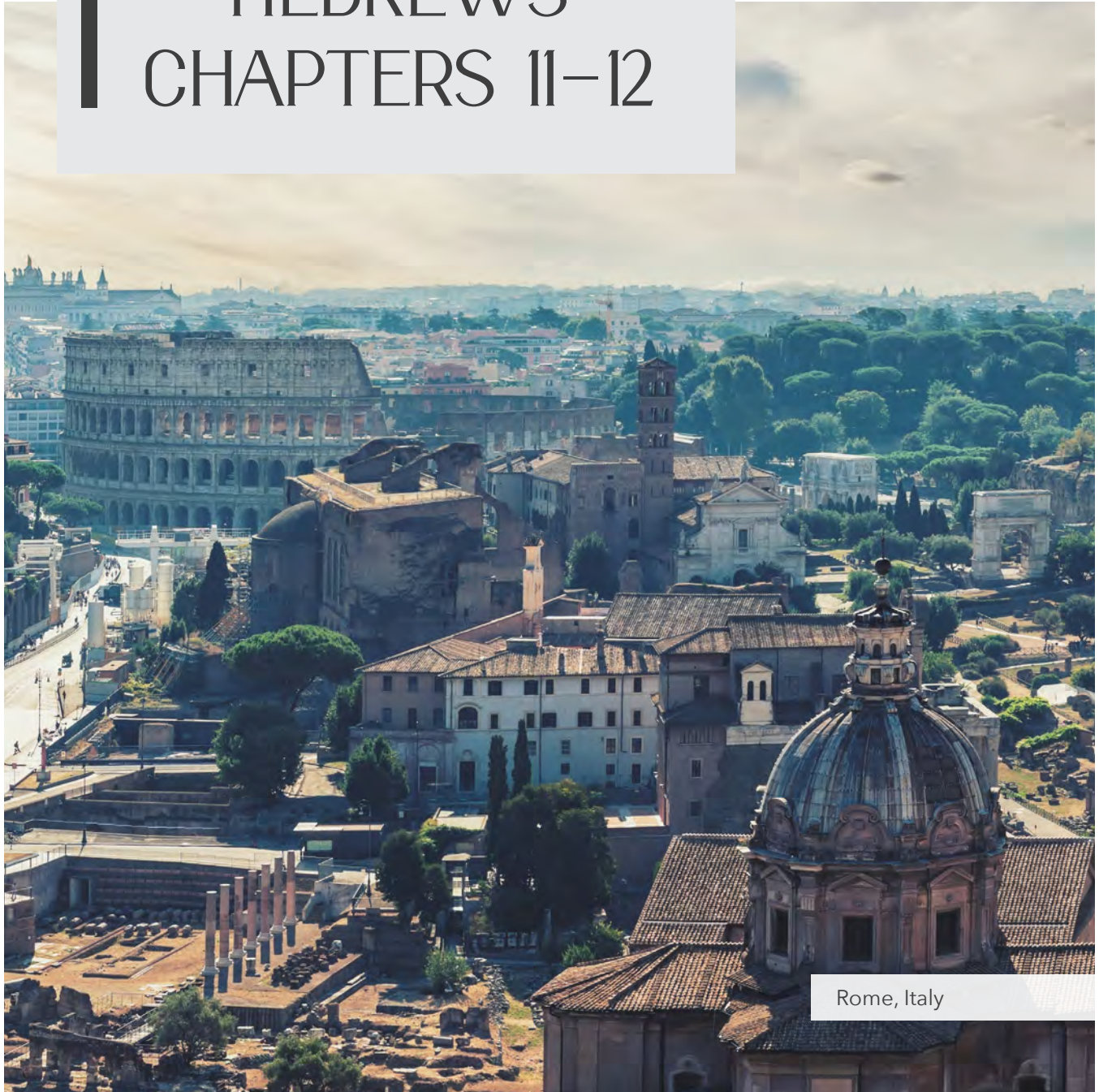


WEEK 7

HEBREWS CHAPTERS 11–12



Rome, Italy

LIVING IN FAITH AND HOLINESS

This week, we wrap up our study and reading of the book of Hebrews. The author ends the book of Hebrews, like many of the epistles, with encouragement for the readers. **The encouragements given here are specifically focused on keeping and growing in faith and in taking practical steps towards holiness today.**

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 11:1-38, 12:1

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FAITH

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

Hebrews 11 ushers in the concluding message of the author of Hebrews. The author, like in most epistles, concludes the letter of Hebrews by giving practical next steps of what the readers/listeners should do. This week, we will be looking at these practical next steps, but we start where the author starts, at the practicality of living in faith.

Faith is an interesting word for Christians, it captures what it means to live in trusting dependence on God. But it's also unique, because faith is temporary. One day, when we are with Jesus face-to-face, faith will give way to sight. We won't need to believe in what we can't see anymore, because what we've trusted in by faith will be fully present and undeniable. Faith is meant to carry us until the day it is no longer necessary. So, **faith is something we are journeying toward seeing fulfilled.**

The author of Hebrews makes the point in chapter eleven that faith serves as our vehicle of confidence in Jesus and what we hope to see Him do in this life. It is also the ultimate assurance that what Jesus has told us is true and happening, even if we don't get to see it on this side of heaven. Faith is wrapped in both the present and the unseen future. The author is helping us walk in these two places by pointing to what is often called “The Hall (or Hall of Fame) of Faith”. The Old Testament is a testament of the faithful to God. It is a reminder of the miraculous and impossible works that God has done through the faithful. These stories and reminders are meant to fuel our faith. When we look at the faithful of the past, we find encouragement to walk in faith in our present to help us move toward our future.

There's one final thing to note: throughout both the Old and New Testaments, we see many examples of the faithful enduring torture, jeers, persecution, imprisonment – some even being sawed in half (vv. 35-37). The author reminds us that faith brings great highs, encouragement, joy, and even miracles, but it also comes with real challenges and suffering. Faith holds both realities together. It is both a testimony to the miraculous power of God and a reminder that we are not home yet, urging us to cling to the truths of His good and unfailing salvation. Faith is our means of endurance until the day it is finally fulfilled in heaven.

REFLECTION

Write down Hebrews 11:1 and 12:1, specifically the final sentence. 11:1 is what faith is, 12:1 is how we use it. Reflect on what faith has done in your life, and what you are faithful to God about as you wait for the day that faith will no longer be necessary.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 12:1-2, HEBREWS 10:24-25, ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12, GALATIANS 6:2

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY

Hebrews 11 is a short look back at the Hall of Faith, or those who faithfully followed the Lord. Some saw great miraculous events, some were relentlessly tortured and suffered, but all shared one thing in common: they didn't get to see the completed work of Jesus. Even though they didn't get to see the fruition of God's workings, they still walked in faith, knowing that one day the Lord would bring all to glorious completion.

Hebrews 12:1-2 points us, the readers, to one of the Lord's most powerful tools for remaining faithful, community. We just looked in extensive detail at the community of believers in the past: "we are surrounded by a huge *crowd* of *witnesses* to the life of faith." (v. 1). We now look at the author's words of encouragement for us. "...let us strip off every weight that slows us down...the sin that so easily trips us up...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects *our* faith." (v. 1-2).

The encouragement the author brings at the beginning of chapter twelve is the encouragement of community. We are connected, through faith, to the champions of faith in the past, and we are connected in faith to the believers today. Community enables us to find the strength to endure the suffering of this world and cultivate a faith that counters the culture (e.g., forgiveness, love for all, turning away from gossip, humility over self-promotion, etc.). Community opens our eyes to the miraculous that surrounds us, but is often hidden behind the noise, busyness, and self-focus of everyday life (e.g., seeing someone receive exactly what they'd been praying for, serving those in need, seeing a relationship reconciled, seeing a person truly grow and change for the better, etc.)

Community is what the church is built upon, and the author is encouraging us that true spiritual discipline happens through the helpful eyes and arms of the spiritual community.

REFLECTION

What does your spiritual community look like? For most of us, we can probably admit that it is lacking. Our faith is challenged in isolation, but in community it is encouraged. Reflect today on the importance of biblical community. If you aren't involved in a spiritual community, consider reaching out to learn more about how you can invest at graceclarksville.com/groups

If you are in community, reach out to your group today with the encouraging words of Hebrews 12:1-2 and let them know how they encourage you in your faith.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 12:1-13, PROVERBS 3:11-12, HEBREWS 10:14

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE

What was the scariest thing you might have had to endure as a child? For most of us, the fear greater than heights or spiders was the fear of discipline. Whether it was a time out, losing something we love, or getting a spanking, discipline was not something we coveted; it was something we dreaded. As a child, the hardest thing about discipline was understanding why it was necessary. Why can't I do whatever I want? Why can't I take my siblings' toys and break them? Why can't I run from my parents when they're trying to take me home early from playing at the park? Why can't I say "potty" words?

As hard as discipline is to understand as a child, it can be even more challenging to experience as an adult. "What do you mean, I can't decide what the correct speed limit is?" "Why do I need to cut out sweets to lower my cholesterol?" "Why can't I rule my own life and decide what I want to do? I'm an adult!" The author of Hebrews takes the reminder of walking in faith to the practical conclusion of this book: faith grows and endures through discipline. **Discipline is both correction and cultivation of character that shapes us toward maturity and growth.** The Lord, like a good parent, disciplines their children to find correction, which is hard for us to go through, but through our correction, our character is shaped in a better direction.

We fear the discipline that comes from the Lord, but the author of Hebrews makes clear that the discipline of the Lord is a beautiful thing. His discipline is a sign and reminder that we are His children whom He loves. He loves us so deeply that He is with us, correcting us, disciplining us to walk in greater awareness of His deep love and grace for us. Remember the words of Hebrews 10:14, "For by that one offering (the sacrificial offering of Jesus upon the cross) He forever made perfect those who are being made holy." The discipline of the Lord is the active working of God in our lives to shape us in holiness.

Pay attention to the last part of chapters twelve and thirteen as the author directs us to where we need the discipline of the Lord in our lives. As you seek this discipline, remember: it is good, it is a measure of His love for us, it is what leads us into the place of holiness.

REFLECTION

Reflect on discipline today. Do you find yourself drawn and open to discipline, or are you the standard of your own discipline? Today, seek to open your heart to the discipline of the Lord. Reflect on the truth that His discipline is a reflection of His love for you.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 12:14-29, ROMANS 12:1-5

EMBRACING THE CALL

Hebrews 12:14-29 calls us to pursue holiness and peace, urging us to “make every effort” to live in a way that honors God. The audience of Hebrews who were believers under persecution were tempted to turn back to old covenant practices or abandon their faith. The author reminds them that God’s discipline is loving, meant to refine and strengthen rather than condemn. Holiness is not isolation; it is alignment with God’s will and living in peace with others.

Mountains in Scripture often symbolize encounters with God. In verses 18-24, the author contrasts Mount Sinai, where the law was given and the people trembled in fear, with Mount Zion, the heavenly city where believers now stand in grace. The imagery emphasizes that God’s call is to embrace what is eternal, not the temporary and fearful ways of the past.

Romans 12:1-5 is calling us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, and to serve together in unity as the body of Christ. Pursuing holiness and peace is not only personal, it is relational. Just as believers together form one body, we ascend toward God’s unshakable “mountain” as a community, growing in faith, obedience, and mutual support.

Embracing God’s call means submitting fully to Him, trusting His loving discipline, and stepping into the eternal reality of His kingdom. Like ascending a mountain, the journey may be challenging, but the view and the presence of God at the summit make every step worth it. The call He extends to us is holy and urgent, meant to draw us into a deeper intimacy with Him and a life marked by integrity, courage, and love. It is a call to leave behind the temporary comforts of sin and fear, and step into the unshakable kingdom of God.

REFLECTION

Where is God calling you to holiness and peace? How can you offer yourself fully as a living sacrifice, trusting His loving discipline, and join with others in the body of Christ to live out His unshakable kingdom today?

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 13

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

As we close our study of Hebrews, chapter 13 serves as a guide for living out the truths we've explored. The writer moves from lofty theological arguments to practical instructions that remind us that faith is meant to shape daily life.

- **Love and Hospitality:** We are called to continue in brotherly love, to show kindness to strangers, and to remember those suffering. Faith is not abstract; it should directly impact how we treat people, even those outside our immediate circle.
- **Contentment and Trust:** Marriage and finances are sacred arenas of trust and integrity. Here, the writer reminds us that God is our helper, our ultimate security and provision, so that we can live without fear, even in uncertainty.
- **Honoring Leaders and God's Word:** We are encouraged to remember and imitate godly leaders and to hold fast to their teaching. Worship and obedience are inseparable; a life of faith is lived openly, in community, and with gratitude.
- **Remembering Christ's Sacrifice:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His sacrifice models a faith that is willing to risk comfort and reputation for the sake of obedience. Our lives should look like an offering of praise through obedience.

The book of Hebrews closes with encouragement to pray, a blessing of peace, and a reminder that our faith is part of a bigger mission. We are not alone; the author prays for God's guidance, showing that Christian life is deeply communal and interdependent.

Hebrews has shown us the superiority of Christ, the sufficiency of His sacrifice, and the call to persevere in our faith. Chapter 13 brings it home: what we believe must shape how we live: how we love, work, worship, and honor Christ in every relationship.

REFLECTION

Spend some time in extended prayer today using Hebrews 13:20-21 and meditate on how the Great Shepherd will equip you for all you need to do His will.

"Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen."

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 11, 12, & 13*

This week's study of Hebrews walks us through the journey of living by faith. We are encouraged by the examples of those who faithfully followed God, reminded that community strengthens and sustains us, and shown that God's loving discipline shapes our character and draws us closer to Him. We are called to pursue holiness and peace, offering ourselves as living sacrifices, and to let our faith shape how we live each day, in love, service, trust, and obedience, reflecting the eternal goodness and sufficiency of Christ in all we do.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WHAT'S NEXT?

TAKING HEBREWS INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE

Jesus is greater. The entirety of the book of Hebrews can be summed up in these three words. For seven weeks, we have looked into the depths of His greatness. We've looked at His greater message, His greater leadership, His greater priestly work, His greater covenant, His greater sacrifice, and how we should now live in greater depths of faithfulness to Him. What now?

Now we take these truths of the Lord's greatness and we stamp them upon our hearts. We reflect daily, intentionally, on what it means for the Lord to be greater. Don't let the truth of Hebrews live within these past seven weeks. Let the truth of Hebrews be so infused with who you are and how you see the world that it becomes a part of your very DNA. The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than anything you have ever known, greater than anything you attempt to pursue outside of Him, and He is greater than anything that may come. Now, live in the power and authority of His greatness.

Faithfully walk, anchor yourself to Him, and lead those around you to see and embrace His greatness.

