**Enduring encouragement – Heb. 12:12 -13**

**God’s discipline is temporary pain for eternal peace**

**God’s discipline is temporary pain for eternal joy**

**God’s discipline is temporary badness for eternal goodness**

**Considerations from Heb. 12: 1- 11**

1. The temporary hard conditions of God’s children reveal God’s gracious love for them 12:6
2. The duty of God’s children is to endure God’s temporary hard discipline 12:7
3. The lack of temporary hard discipline is evidence of lostness 12:8
4. The duty of God’s children is to submit to the discipline of God 12:9
5. The temporary hard conditions of discipline are God’s gracious gift for God’s children’s good 12:10
6. The peacefulness of living rightly is produced from God’s training discipline 12:11

**Observations Heb. 12:12-13**

1. Strengthen yours and others weakened hands in the good fight of faith despite the temporary bad conditions of discipline 12:12
2. Ezek. 7:16,17 – But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, everyone for his iniquity. All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water – picture of the pressure that comes from conviction of sin
3. Ezek. 21:7 – when they say to you, Why do you groan? You shall say, because of the news that is coming, and every heart will melt, all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint and all knees will be weak as water…- picture of the despair of continued troubles and opposition and discipline of God’s people
4. Strengthen yours and others feeble knees in the walk of faith despite the temporary bad conditions of discipline 12:12
5. Make straight paths for your feet as an example in enduring the temporary bad conditions of discipline 12:13
6. Make straight paths for your feet not causing others to stumble in temporary bad conditions of discipline 12:13

 “backslidden believers are a plague of the church, inconsistencies in God’ people spread discouragements

 among weak believers”

1. Make straight paths for your feet so that healing may come to others in temporary bad conditions of discipline 12:13

 Gal. 6:1 – if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted

**Things to remember**

1. A Christian’s temporary condition may be very bad because of God’s goodness in discipline
2. A Christian’s temporary bad condition trains him to endurance
3. A Christian’s temporary bad condition brings peaceful righteousness
4. A Christian’s temporary condition may be bad & yet the man be very good
5. A Christian’s temporary bad condition is a temporary bad condition for his good

 **Daily Use**

1. Remember the past great group of believers who have endured temporary bad conditions, who fought the good fight, kept the faith, and finished the course before you 12:1
2. Set your mind on the endurance of the Lord Jesus Christ our leader who endure & overcame 12:2-3
3. Ask yourself – why am I weak and feeble in faith?
4. Strengthen your weak & feeble faith by prayer, scripture & faith in God’s work in your life
5. Encourage your weakened & feeble fellow believers by setting an example of faith, courage and endurance

 Isa. 35:3 – encourage the exhausted & strengthen the feeble

 1 Thess. 5:14 – warn the unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men