

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark scene of a stormy sea under a heavy, dark sky. Multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, striking down from the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and turbulent, with white-capped waves. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

# HEBREWS

PERSEVERANCE AND GODLINESS



# 8 steps of the “Path”

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1. Faith
2. Excellence
3. Knowledge
4. Self-control
5. **Perseverance**
6. **Godliness**
7. Brotherly affection
8. Unselfish love

**Perseverance** is when we choose to trust God in every test, temptation, and trial

**Godliness** is when we work to align our character, ethics, worldview, and thought patterns with Christ

# Be careful!

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① neglect → drift →

② unbelief / disobedience →  
fall away / forsake (apostasy)

③ apathy → rejection of Jesus  
and disqualification or death

④ deliberate, willful rejection →  
loss of everything except eternal salvation



# Hebrews 12:1–3

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- A “witness” is someone who gives a testimony. These may not have died **for** their faith, but they died **in** faith and in hope.
- They haven’t yet received what God promised because God is still waiting for others to believe in Jesus and join the family.

# Hebrews 12:1–3

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Look at the parallels

- We have **a race set before us**,  
so we should **persevere through our troubles**,  
**laying aside** whatever would hold us down
- Jesus had **joy set before him**,  
so he **endured (persevered) the cross and hostility**,  
**disregarding the shame**



# Hebrews 12:1–3

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- Jesus is called the “pioneer” of our faith, the same word as in 2:10. “Perfecter” means “the one who brings it to completion.” It’s like other phrases: beginning/end, alpha/omega, first/last that we see in the Revelation.

# Hebrews 12:4–6

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- Just a reminder of what they were going through. It hadn't come to executions yet, but those were probably expected.
- BUT...the writer said that they were forgetting the bigger picture



# Hebrews 12:4–6

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- Not every bad situation is from God, but don't automatically dismiss that option
- Sometimes God uses terrible things for instruction/correction, discipline, or punishment



# Hebrews 12:7–11

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- Here's the perspective: if you don't know why it's happening, accept it as if it were God trying to teach you something
- Don't think of "discipline" as bad. It's a part of training. If earthly fathers did that in their imperfect way and we can accept it, how much more should we accept it from our Perfect Father?

# Hebrews 12:12–13

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- These imperatives are plural—commands for the community to strengthen those who have fallen and prep the way for them to come back (Galatians 6:1–2)



# Questions

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1. How do I respond to tests, temptations, and trials—especially when I don't always know which it is?
2. Who am I helping come back to strength, so they don't fall away?
3. Who is in my cloud of witnesses that I can point to as an example of perseverance?

# Hebrews 10:32–34

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- Their connection to the Christian faith was affecting their daily lives.
- They thought they were willing to trade in their “better and lasting possession” for temporary, earthly possessions and relationships.
- They were honestly questioning if Christianity was worth what it was costing them. But in doing so they forgot what it really cost—Jesus’ life.



# Hebrews 10:35–36

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- Chapter 11 will look at past heroes who didn't fall away, but the writer said to look at our own pasts first.
- Choosing to turn away from Jesus is called throwing away one's confidence. It's basically saying, "I can't trust God anymore."
- God's promise is worth my perseverance

# Hebrews 10:37–39

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- Jesus will return as promised and right on time and that those who remain faithful will be rewarded, while the unfaithful will face God's disappointment



# Hebrews 10:37–39

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- “shrink back” refers to a state of timidity
- “perish” can mean eternal destruction, waste, or ruin
- “preserve” can mean security or some kind of gain or possession
- “soul” means the spiritual part of a person every time in Hebrews

# Hebrews 10:39

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- It can mean *“shrink back to eternal destruction... have faith and preserve their souls.”*
- It can also mean *“live as the timid resulting in a wasted life... live from faith resulting in preservation and possession of our spiritual lives.”*



# Question

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*Can we — will we — find total sufficiency  
in Christ alone or will we waste our lives  
and lose everything he designed us for?*



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