

# 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	παραλελυμένα	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.”
- Psalms 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	τροχιάς	ὀρθὰς	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

- d. Look straight ahead and fix your gaze
  - e. Make level paths and take firm ways
  - f. Do not swerve to the right or left
  - g. 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]
Eirēnēn	diōkete	meta	pantōn	kai	ton	hagiasmon	hou	chōris	oudeis	opsetai
14 Εἰρήνην	διώκετε	μετὰ	πάντων	, καὶ	τὸν	ἁγιασμόν	, οὗ	χωρὶς	οὐδεὶς	ὄψεται
Peace	pursue	with	all	and	-	holiness	which	without	no one	will see
N-AFS	V-PMA-2P	Prep	Adj-GMP	Conj	Art-AMS	N-AMS	RelPro-GMS	Prep	Adj-NMS	V-FIM-3S

3588 [e]	2962 [e]
ton	Kyrion
τὸν	Κύριον
the	Lord
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 *diwkw* 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 ἑπισκοποῦντες	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	phyousa	enochlē	kai	di'	autēs	mianthōsin	hoi	polloi
πικρίας	ἄνω	φύουσα	ἐνοχλή	, καὶ	δι*	αὐτῆς*	, μίανθῶσιν	〈οἱ〉	πολλοί
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” from it.
  - 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	, ὃς	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 thelon klironomēsai tēn eulogian apedokimasthē metanoias gar  
 17 ἴστε γὰρ ὅτι καὶ μετέπειτα , θέλων κληρονομήσαι τὴν εὐλογίαν , ἀπεδοκίμασθη ; 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 peace with all men”	Peace
12:14	“be holy”	Holiness
12:15	“no one misses the grace of God”	Grace
12:15	“no bitter root grows up” a. “trouble” b. “defile many”	Not Bitter
12:16	“no one is sexually immoral”	Not Sexually Immoral
12:16	“no one is godless”	Not Godless
12:25	“do not refuse him who speaks”	God’s Word