

Hebrews 11:32 – 12:3

New American Standard Bible 1995

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Review the section from last week (11:32-40) for the context. Then focus on 12:1-3.

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Underline what **we are to do**.
- Circle what **Jesus has done**.
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- What does the “cloud of witnesses” (12:1) have to do with your Christian life?
- How does what Jesus has done impact what you are supposed to do?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What “encumbers” and “entangles” you?
- What does “grow weary and lose heart” look like in your life?
- How does “fixing” your eyes on and “considering” Jesus affect the entangles and encumbrances?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

1 ³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell
 2 of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel
 3 and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms,
 4 performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut
 5 the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped
 6 the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong,
 7 became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
 8 ³⁵ Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and
 9 others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that
 10 they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others
 11 experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains
 12 and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in
 13 two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the
 14 sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being
 15 destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸ (*men of whom the world*
 16 *was not worthy*), wandering in deserts and mountains and
 17 caves and holes in the ground.
 18 ³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their
 19 faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God
 20 had provided something better for us, so that apart from us
 21 they would not be made perfect.
 22 **12** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses
 23 surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance
 24 and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run
 25 with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our
 26 eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for
 27 the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the
 28 shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of
 29 God.
 30 ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by
 31 sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary
 32 and lose heart.

For additional thought and discussion:

- How might these earlier statements in Hebrews connect our endurance (12:1b) with the endurance of Jesus (12:2b)? Do they?
 - He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (2:17-18)
 - For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (4:15)

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

Hebrews 12_1-3.docx