

A religious painting of a crucifix. The cross is made of dark wood and is set against a background of a cloudy sky. A crown of thorns is placed on the cross. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

# Two Mountains: Principles and Practices of Perseverance

Hebrews 12:14-29

**SUPERIOR SON**  
**PERSEVERING PEOPLE**  
A STUDY IN HEBREWS

# Perseverance in the Faith

## Hebrews 12:14-29

### ▢ Practices

- Pursuing Peace and Holiness (v. 14)
- Seeing to it that Grace is obtained (v.15)
- Resisting Bitterness (v.15)
- Listening to the voice (v. 25)

### ▢ Principles

- Birthright and Blessing of the firstborn (v. 16)
- Rejecting the inheritance (v. 17)
- Mountains of God (vv. 18-23)
- Mediator of a New Covenant, Blood that speaks a better word (v. 24)
- Unshakeable Kingdom (vv. 26-28)
- Our God is a Consuming Fire (v. 29)



# God the Father, Son, Spirit



## Old Testament

- A first Adam, and a first sacrifice for atonement of sin
- Tabernacle and Temple; Priests and Mediators
- Practices and Prophets; Feasts and Festivals
- Deliverance out of slavery and idolatry
- A serpent who needed crushing
- Firstborn Sons and Birthrights
- Fire from heaven and angels from heaven
- Justice and Wrath, Forgiveness and Mercy
- Deliverance into the freedom of true worship
- Deserved condemnation, undeserved kindness
- Kinsman redeemers and shepherds and songs
- Blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience

## New Testament

**J  
E  
S  
U  
S**

**Mount  
Zion**

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### □ Principles

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- Inheritance > stew (v. 17)
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## **Pursuing Peace and Holiness, Heb. 12:14**

**Psalm 34:14:** Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

**Isaiah 26:3:** You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

**John 14:27:** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

**Romans 5:1:** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

**1 Thessalonians 3:16:** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.

***If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.***

**-Colossians 3:1-2**

## □ Practices

- Pursuing Peace and Holiness (v. 14)
- Seeing to it that **Grace** is obtained (v.15)
- Resisting Bitterness (v.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. -Hebrews 12:15*



## **Bitterness (*lack of faith*):**

When we allow painful or disappointing experiences to drive faithless, sinful emotions, thoughts, words and behaviors.

## **Common examples of what we're bitter about:**

- The past - past hurts, sufferings, offenses, failures.
- Others not meeting our expectations.
- Life not meeting our expectations, not working out how we wanted.

## **Clues and Signs:**

- Complaining of past experiences to others, while not including God's goodness and faithfulness in the discussion.
- Lack of gratitude, complaining.
- Lack of generosity, selfishness with time and money.
- Excuses for sin and unfaithfulness.



# Rooting Out Bitterness

Not by *minimizing* our difficulties, but by *maximizing* our faith and focus on God:

1. God is trustworthy.
2. Jesus is bigger and better than any pain, suffering, disappointment, offense, or difficulty.
3. By faith in Jesus, I will love and give and serve.
4. I trust in God, and I will persevere in *FAITH*, not bitterness.

## □ Principles

- Birthright and Blessing of the firstborn (v. 16)
- Birthright, Blessing, Inheritance > stew (v. 17)

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way.

Thus Esau despised his birthright. –**Genesis**

**25:34** 

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Esau said to his father, “Have you but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

–**Genesis 27:38**

# Perseverance in the Faith

## Hebrews 12:14-29

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- Pursuing Peace and Holiness (v. 14)
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### □ Principles

- Birthright and Blessing of the firstborn (v. 16)
- Inheritance > stew (v. 17)
- **Mountains of God (vv. 18-23)**

**Psalm 2:6**: “As for me, I have set my King on **Zion**, my holy hill.”

**Psalm 48:1-2**: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God!, His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, **Mount Zion**, in the far north, the city of the great King.

**Psalm 110:2**: The LORD sends forth from **Zion**, your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

**Psalm 25:1**: Those who trust in the LORD are like **Mount Zion**, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**Isaiah 28:16**: Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in **Zion**, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:

**Jeremiah 3:14**: Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to **Zion**.



**Hope**  
**(Heb. 6:19; 11:1)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Century:**  
**Apostle John**

**18<sup>th</sup> Century:**  
**Hymn-writer John**





The background is a religious painting depicting the Resurrection. A large, bright red cross is superimposed over the center of the image. The painting shows a stone rolled away from a tomb entrance, with a white cloth lying on the ground. A crown of thorns is visible on the right side. The scene is set in a dark, cavernous space with a blue and white sky visible through the tomb opening.

**JESUS**

**Mount  
Sinai**

**Mount  
Zion**