

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 22, 2018**

**Perseverance, Peace, and Purity
Hebrews 12:12-14**

The author, understanding the challenges that would be faced by those who were being disciplined by God in their long-distance race of faith, exhorted his readers to do four different things (Hebrews 12:12-17)

The author exhorted his readers “to strengthen weak hands and feeble knees” (Hebrews 12:12; cf. Isaiah 35:3-4)

Based on Isaiah 35:3-4, when the author exhorted his readers “to strengthen weak hands and feeble knees” he was calling his readers to help those who had begun to show signs of spiritual exhaustion to focus on the certainty and blessings of Christ’s promised return (John 14:1-3).

The author exhorted his readers to “make straight paths for their feet” (Hebrews 12:13 cf. Proverbs 4:26-27).

Based on Proverbs 4:26-27, the author was exhorting his readers, when they were spiritually staggered by a particular trauma, to make sure that they remained committed to staying on the path of obedience.

The author exhorted his readers to pursue “peace” and “sanctification” (Hebrews 12:14).

Those who continue to follow after Christ will inevitably pursue “peace with all men” (Hebrews 12:14).

Those who continue to follow after Christ will inevitably pursue sanctification (Hebrews 12:14).

Those who are pursuing sanctification in Hebrews 12:14 are those who as a manifestation of their faith in Christ are continuously seeking to bring their lives into conformity with Christ.

May God, in spite of what we may have to suffer, give us the grace to keep running in our long-distance race of faith until we cross the finish line and into the arms of Christ.