

LOSING HEART

Hebrews 12:3-5 "For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart." 4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor lose heart when you are reprov'd by Him;

Condition	called Losing Heart	Fainting
Cause	of Losing Heart	Hopeless
Cure	for having Lost Heart	Hope

Condition of having Lost Heart – Heart Faints

Old Testament: A host of words: rakak, macac, muwg,:

- All referring to being weak, sick, discouraged, disheartened, to melt, to dissolve or to come apart – often find this concept associated with fear, terror & trembling.
- Deuteronomy 20:3 “And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them;”

New Testament: We find two common words:

- Ekluo, meaning to be weary, tired, discouraged or to fall apart, go to pieces and lose hope.
- Ekkakeo, meaning to think bad or wrong, to fail to hold out, to fail to endure to the end, to give up or to lose courage & motivation

Here are a few of “life’s” examples:

- To lose heart is a synonym of being discouraged or disheartened.
- Ekluo – to dissolve or to come apart – to have one’s faith in God challenged as “our plan” falls apart.
- Ekkakeo – to think wrong – to have one’s faith in God replaced by faith in hopeless ideas.
- To let go of belief that God is good & His plan is designed to “bless” you
- To adopt a belief that God is arbitrary, vengeful or uncaring about your situation.
- To become exhausted from the “fight of faith” and discouraged about God rewarding your faith.
- To give up the “fight of faith” in order to “pursue some worldly goal”, thus pleasing the ‘flesh’.

What would cause one to “Lose Heart”? What can induce us to abandon our faith in God’s goodness and in His promise to reward those who trust Him?

- Adversity in your life – Heb 12:3 – hostility, Heb 12:5 – training / discipline
- Extended season of adversity – Gal 6:9 – get weary of doing good
- Overwhelming adversity – Jesus in Gethsemane; 2Cor 1:8 – overwhelming affliction
- Undeserved suffering associated with ministry 2Cor 4:1-16
- Watching others suffer – Eph 3:13 – Paul’s suffering

What would cause one to “Lose Heart”? Our tendency is to have an agenda; we want our life to be pleasant and prosperous.

- We want, even expect that God will bless us with prosperity – finances, family
- When God allows adversity to induce growth, we are tempted to be disappointed
- When God allows adversity to endure, we grow weary from looking for a break
- When prosperity is delayed we can decide that God isn't going to bless us.
 - Wrong idea / expectation about what constitutes blessing from God
 - Wrong idea / expectation faced with realities of the devil's world

The Cure for Losing Heart – A transformation – A renewal of our beliefs

In order to recover from feeling discouraged, we have to:

- **Understand God's plan and what constitutes blessing from His perspective**
 - Word of God as revealed by God, The Holy Spirit (GHS) – Adversity is for growth and God's Glorification.
- **Abandon our old view of God's Plan and what constitutes blessing**
 - Take off old man – change what we believe is necessary for +H
- **Embrace God's Plan for blessing us in this life**
 - Believe that God loves us, is in control – allowing adversity for a purpose
 - Believe that this life is a war and that fullness of blessing is in the next life.

Lose Heart:

- God's training program – Heb 12:5-11
- Burdens of Ministry – 2Cor 4:1-16;
- Prayer life – Lk 18:1