

## **The Superior Life**

Hebrews 12:4 – 13:25

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When you endure hardships, think of them as discipline from God. Weren't we all disciplined by our parents as we were growing up? That's how we learned to behave. In the same way, God uses the difficulties of life to guide us into holiness. These acts of discipline are signs of God's love.

Don't fail to respond to the grace God offers. Otherwise bitterness will destroy your life and poison the lives of those around you. Don't fall into impurity. Don't lose your reverence for the Lord. If you do, you may lose your due inheritance as a child of God.

Our ancestors went to Mount Sinai. Thunder roared; lightning flashed; and the mountain was covered with smoke. God's voice terrified them and they refused to listen. We have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. Listen to the voice of God or you will be lost.

When God spoke from Sinai, the earth shook. When God speaks from heaven, the earth will shake again, and so will heaven. Everything that has merely been made will be removed. The kingdom we are receiving is unshakeable so long as we serve God thankfully with reverence and awe.

Show hospitality; remember those in prison and those being mistreated; remain faithful in marriage; don't love money; be satisfied with what you have; and follow the guidance of your spiritual leaders. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Through him let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, living in peace, doing good deeds, and sharing with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.