

Sovereign Grace Church
“Re-vitalizing Our Spirit” outline
September 24, 2017

Hebrews 12: 12-17

We have seen how the inconveniences, frustrations, sufferings and even persecutions accompanying the Christian life are not to be regarded as punishments, but as opportunities to test the mettle of our faith and grow closer in our walk with Christ. The writer had a very real worry about upcoming physical persecution for his people and could already see some beginning to falter in their commitment to follow Jesus. In this section he reminds them to take an interest in the re-vitalization of their spirit in the common affairs of life so that they may be better prepared when the crises hit!

Jesus told his disciples that his yoke was easy and his burden light. (Matt. 11:30) This is only so when our minds and wills are in tune with His. There is nothing harder than to seek to do the right thing when in fact we want to do the wrong thing. This is what spiritual transformation is all about....a re-wiring of our most central desires and values. We are born into a condition where we find the world's yoke easy and its burden light! Sin is easy. But it is an ease which includes unending frustration, fighting and disappointment. Jesus came to call us out of this world and join Him in His kingdom of righteousness. It is this transition that consumes our lives on this earth. This passage challenges us to prepare ourselves in God's grace to be empowered to persevere and increasingly live in the realm of Jesus' Kingdom.

1. **Re-focus our Lives vv. 12-13**
Isa. 35: 3; Prov. : 26

2. **Pursue Peace and Holiness v. 14**

- **Pursuing Peace**
Rom. 12: 17-18

- **Pursuing Holiness**
Gal. 6:8; Rom. 6: 12-14

