Hebrews 12:14-17, Bible Devotions

❑ Monday - Pursue Peace With All Men. Hebrews 12:14

Here the Word of God exhorts the people of God to "Pursue peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14). Elsewhere it says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18). Does someone have something against you? Go to him, humble yourself, and seek reconciliation (Mt. 5:23-25). "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt. 5:9). Read Romans 14:19

❑ Tuesday - God is Perfecting His Work in You. Hebrews 12:14

Paul writes, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). At times, the unbeliever's outward actions are better than the Christian's, much to our shame. Nevertheless, there is infinitely more hope for the Christian's moral development, for the same God who began His work deep within the Christian's heart is daily improving upon it. Biblical Christianity is not static, but a religion of daily repentance, transformation and change into the image of God. Read Colossians 3:5-11

❑ Wednesday - Pursue Sanctification. Hebrews 12:14

In addition to peace with others, the text here commands the believer to *pursue* sanctification. "The Christian life requires hard work. Our sanctification is a process wherein we are coworkers with God. His divine help does not annul our responsibility to work" (Sproul). So then, let us rollup our sleeves and "work out our salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12) [Note it does not say, "work *for* your salvation"]. Read Matthew 16:24; Romans 8:13; 2 Corinthians 7:1, 10:5; and 1 Timothy 6:12

❑ Thursday - Are You Getting Better or Bitter? Hebrews 12:14

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble" (Heb. 12:15). This admonition comes on the heels of the previous section concerning God's discipline (See Heb. 12:3-13), which can have the effect of separating the wheat from the tares and the true people of God from false converts. It is said that the same flame that softens the wax, hardens the steel. And so it is that the same trials that soften some persons and produce repentance, harden others in their sin. These trials sanctify the believer, improve his character, and make him better. But the very same trials cause the unbeliever to fall short of the grace of God and make him bitter. What effect are your trials having on you friend? You might want to talk to the Lord about that. Read James 1:2-4,12

❑ Friday - Don't Sell Out. Hebrews 12:16-17

"See to it that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears" (Heb. 12:15-17). Esau sold God's blessing for a bowl of stew! O what eternal treasures we forfeit to satisfy earthly appetites – God's treasure for crumbs! Esau's tears were remorse without repentance – cries for God's blessing without a heartcry for God Himself. Here we see two kinds of sorrow: "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death" (2 Cor. 7:10). What makes you sorry – your sin or its consequences? Read Romans 2:4