

The strengthening of our faith comes from looking to Christ, Himself. Let's read Hebrews 12:1-13.

1. Start with some general observations about
 - a. Sin – What does it do? Who does it affect? What's the remedy?
 - b. Discipline – Who receives it? What attitude toward it is encouraged? Any qualities? What's it a sign of? What's its purpose?
 - c. Obedience – Who's it for? Any qualities? What's a sign of? What's its purpose? Why is it important?
 - d. Authority – the word never shows up in these verses, so where do you see it in play? Who has it? How is it used/expressed/recognized, etc.?
2. How is Jesus' obedience both our encouragement and the means for our own obedience?
3. So what does this have to do with parenting?
 - a. How do these verses give shape to my understanding of myself?
 - What's the goal of my life? What's the goal of my parenting?
 - How seriously do I take my own sin? Where do I look to for its remedy?
 - What's my attitude toward my own obedience to Christ?
 - How do I respond to the Lord's discipline in my life – with hardness or softness of heart?
 - Where do I welcome the Lord's authority? Where do I resist it? How is this expressed?
 - b. How do these verses give shape to my understanding of my child?
 - What's the goal of my child's life?
 - Where is the battle against sin beginning in his/her life? How does my parenting inform and encourage this? Where does it add confusion or detract from this?
 - Why is the call to obedience (to me, and to the Lord) important in my child's life? How is this an expression of love? When do I make it something other than an expression of love?
 - What is my child coming to understand about authority – God's, ours as parents, and his/her own? How is my child experiencing the blessing of living under authority? When there's resistance, what's going on there? How is my child being encouraged in the stewardship of his/her own authority?
 - How is my discipline of my child mirroring, or different, from the Lord's discipline of me? As I enter in to the challenging task of child discipline, where do I look in order to "lift up my drooping hands and strengthen my weak knees"?