

Hebrews 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Analysis

'Be not slothful' repeats the warning against spiritual laziness. Instead, 'be followers of them' (Greek 'mimetai'—imitators) of faithful examples. The dual virtues 'faith and patience' characterize those who inherit promises—believing God's word and waiting for His timing. The examples of faithful believers (detailed in chapter 11) demonstrate that promises often come through long perseverance.

Historical Context

The OT saints listed in chapter 11 modeled faith that endured despite not receiving promised fulfillment in their lifetimes. Their patient faith encourages believers facing delayed fulfillment of God's promises.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who are faithful examples you can imitate in combining faith with patience?
2. What promises of God are you waiting to see fulfilled, and how can you wait faithfully?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα μὴ νωθοὶ γένησθε μιμηταὶ δὲ τῶν διὰ
That G3361 **slothful** **ye be** **followers** **but** G3588 **of them who through**
G2443 G3576 G1096 G3402 G1161 G1223

πίστεως καὶ μακροθυμίας κληρονομούντων τὰς
faith **and** **patience** **inherit** G3588
G4102 G2532 G3115 G2816

ἐπαγγελίας
the promises
G1860

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:7 (Faith): Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 10:36 (Covenant): For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

1 John 2:25 (Covenant): And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

Romans 12:11 (Parallel theme): Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Hebrews 5:11 (Parallel theme): Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 12:1 (Parallel theme): Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Proverbs 18:9 (Parallel theme): He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

2 Peter 1:10 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Jeremiah 6:16 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.