

Hebrews 12:13b: The Healing of the Soul

de - “but”

The contrast emphasized is between relapse into reversionism and staying the course to spiritual maturity by remaining in the wheel-tracks of righteousness while ignoring all distractions. This includes also the comparative adverb:

mallon - “rather”

Next, we have the intended purpose of reversion recovery stated in the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb:

iaomai - “to restore”

Arndt, William F. and F. Wilber Gingrich. Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, s.v. “iaomai”:

To be cured of an illness; to be relieved from terrible suffering. Fig: to restore someone from sin and its consequences; to heal the soul.

Vine, W. E. Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, s.v. “iaomai”:

Fig: “spiritual healing.”

Zondervan. Analytical Greek Lexicon, s.v. “iaomai”:

Met: to heal spiritually; to restore from a state of sin and condemnation. The examples given for this use are Matthew 13:15 and Hebrews 12:13.

Matthew 13:14 - In the case of these multitudes the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled which says, “You will keep on hearing but you will not understand; and you will keep on seeing but will not perceive;

Matthew 13:15 - for the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I should heal them [**iaomai**].”

Aorist - Culminative; views the action of reversion recovery in its entirety and regards it from the viewpoint of the existing results, that is, if you remain on the wheel-tracks of righteousness you will eventually come to the point of healing.

Passive - The listless hands and disabled knees of Hebrews 12:12 receive the grace healing realized when one permits his soul to be nurtured by the principles of divine righteousness.

Subjunctive - Potential; requires positive response to the guidance of God’s Word during the recovery process.

Note the contrast between the aorist passive subjunctive of the verb: *ektrepo*, which we translated “dislocated,” and this verb: *iaomai*, translated “healed.”