

The Fear Of The Lord

Part 2: The Discipline of God

Hebrews 12:5-11 - Have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. ⁶For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

⁷ As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? ⁸ If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. ⁹ Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

¹⁰ For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

- **God disciplines His children, not unbelievers.**

- **The discipline of God is not for revenge. He disciplines us in order to shape us into Christ-likeness.**

Romans 8:1 - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

God's discipline includes correction, training, instruction, rebuking, and enduring consequences that lead us back to holiness.

Why Does God Discipline His Children?

- **Because He loves us.** (Hebrews 12:6)

God loves us too much to let us stay as immature Christians.

- **To produce holiness.** (Hebrews 12:10)

God uses painful circumstances to shape Christlike character.

Romans 5:3-5 - We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment.

- **To restore fellowship with God.**

God disciplines to bring wandering believers back to himself.

Psalm 32:3-5 - When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat.

⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Forms of God's Discipline

Conviction through the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, consequences of sin, and severe discipline (ex. David and Jonah).

How Should We Respond To God's Discipline?

The Wrong Way:

- **Refuse to repent**

- **Lose hope because you think God no longer loves you.**

The Right Way:

- **Examine your heart.**

Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- **Repent quickly.**

Proverbs 28:13 - People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

- **Submit humbly.**

1 Peter 5:5 - God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

- **Trust God's purpose.**

Hebrews 12:11 - No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.