

Study of Hebrews #61

“The Discipline of a Loving Father”

Text: Hebrews 12:5-11

I. Introduction and review

II. Have we forgotten the exhortation about God’s discipline?

1. Don’t take it lightly.
2. Don’t be discouraged by it.

III. Do we understand the purposes of God’s discipline?

1. Correction
2. Prevention
3. Education

IV. Are we thankful for the goals of God’s discipline?

1. Life
2. Holiness

V. Conclusion – a final word

QUOTES

1. A. W. Pink:

Remind yourself of how much dross there is yet among the gold and view the corruption of your own heart and marvel that God has not smitten you more severely.

2. Simon Kistemaker:

In times of affliction, says the author, keep in mind that all your setbacks come from God; he is training you in godliness and has accepted you as sons. The adversities you encounter are blessings in disguise, for behind your difficulties stands a loving Father who is giving you what is best. God's children, then, must always look beyond their trials and realize that God himself is at work in their lives.

3. Kent Hughes:

So we see that all the hardships that come the believer's way are loving discipline and are, in effect, either corrective or preventative or educational. We must remember this! As James Moffatt said, "To endure rightly, one must endure intelligently." If we have an informed, intelligent, Biblical understanding of the afflictions that come our way, and we believe God's Word, we will endure.

4. John MacArthur:

You do not know what victory is until you have fought a battle... You do not know the joy of relief until you have suffered, or of healing until you have been sick. You do not know what living is all about until you have experienced some problems and hardships.

5. ESV Study Bible:

Jesus calls his followers, not to a dour, lifeless, miserable existence that squashes human potential, but to a rich, full, joyful life, one overflowing with meaningful activities under the personal favor and blessing of God and in continual fellowship with his people.

6. D. C. Arichea & E. A. Nida:

To be holy is to be conscious of belonging to God and to act out this relationship in obedience to God's will. A very important aspect of this ethical understanding of holiness is moral integrity, which includes hatred for everything evil and sinful, and complete dedication to everything that is good and acceptable to God.

7. Anonymous:

And so what do I say? I say let the rains of disappointment come, if they water the plants of spiritual grace. Let the winds of adversity blow, if they serve to root more securely the trees that God has planted. I say, let the sun of prosperity be eclipsed, if that brings me closer to the true light of life. Welcome, sweet discipline, discipline designed for my joy, discipline designed to make me what God wants me to be.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

- **Prov. 3:11-12; Ps. 78:10-11; Ps. 77:11; Ps. 78:35; Ps. 119:11**
- **Heb. 2:11; 1 Cor. 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:23; Rom. 10:17**
- **Rom. 8:28-29; James 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-5**
- **Rom. 1:24-31**
- **Ps. 51:3-4, 9-12; 1 Cor. 11:28-32; 2 Cor. 12:1-10; Ps. 119:67, 71**
- **Jn. 10:10; Ps. 16**
- **1 Pet. 1:14-16; Eph. 5:1; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:7**