

God disciplines each of us because He loves us and knows what is best for us. His discipline is used to produce righteousness in each of us and to increase our obedience towards His Holiness and fellowship. Correct discipline protects us from wrong decisions in the present and future. God's discipline is good and perfect. It is out of discipline that we develop our obedience to God, trusting in Him that He knows best and to protect us from destruction. We do not want to develop a negative attitude towards God during our times of discipline, but rather receive it as positive instruction for our well being.

- Heb 12:6-12 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,
- Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- Rom 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- 2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Discussion Item 1: *How has God disciplined you lately?*

Discussion Item 2: *Do you know when God is disciplining you? How do you know?*

Life Application: *When God is disciplining you, remind yourself that it is out of His love for you and His desire to keep you from harm.*

Helpful Definition:

Chastening | discipline - Training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior, especially training that produces moral or mental improvement. Controlled behavior resulting from disciplinary training; self-control. Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order. A state of order based on submission to rules and punishment intended to correct or train. (*Webster*)

Notes:

Proverb 10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD, And teach out of Your law,