

## The Chastening of God

June 19, 2016

### Hebrews 12:5–29 NASB

**5** and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, **“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;**

*Because of sin, both Adam’s and our own, we were conceived and born depraved, twisted, perverted and broken. Like a surgeon setting a broken leg, a dentist fixing a broken tooth, or a parent correcting a strong-willed toddler, in order for what is broken to be fixed, pain has to be applied. There is no other way around it. And the pain to be fixed is not the surgeon’s fault, not the dentist’s fault, not the parent’s fault and not God’s fault.*

- **discipline** (*paideia* - training, correcting mistakes and curbing passions, cultivate the soul, instruction which increases virtue)
- **regard lightly** (*oligoreo* - care little for, make small account of)
- **faint** (*eklyō* - to give up, grow weary, grow weak, exhaustion, tired out)

**6** **FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”**

*Many times all we can see is the pain of the trial, without rejoicing in the results of the trial. If we endure to the end, we will be so much freer from ourselves, filled with so much more peace and joy, experiencing a greater freedom from sin and carnality, experiencing so much more of God! No only is the pain worth it, but the pain is greatly minimized in light of the work of God. This process of sanctification is God’s love expressed to us!*

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”

— [A.W. Tozer](#)

“God never uses anyone greatly until He tests them deeply.”

— [A.W. Tozer](#)

**7** **IT IS FOR DISCIPLINE THAT YOU ENDURE;** God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

*I want the discipline. I want to be free from myself. I want to be free from sin and depravity. I want to know and experience more of God. Therefore I gladly endure the discipline!*

**8** But if you are without discipline, **OF WHICH ALL HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS,** then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

*All of God’s children, without exception, need discipline. You are not singled out, you are not the only one, you are not the reject of God’s family. We are all in this training together!*

**9** Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

**10** For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, **SO THAT WE MAY SHARE HIS HOLINESS.**

- **holiness** (*hagiotēs* - separate, pure, free from sin and sinful affections, set apart for sacred use)

John 15:2 NASB

"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."

**11 ALL DISCIPLINE FOR THE MOMENT SEEMS NOT TO BE JOYFUL, BUT SORROWFUL;** yet to those who have been trained by it, **AFTERWARDS IT YIELDS THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

*As you endure the trials and God's chastening in your life, you will experience yourself changing, from the inside out, in the most unexplainable and unimaginable ways. Great is the mystery of how God applies adversity and pain to the soul to effect His divine corrections upon our nature.*

Galatians 5:4-6 NASB

4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

**12** Therefore, **STRENGTHEN THE HANDS THAT ARE WEAK** and **THE KNEES THAT ARE FEEBLE,**

**13** and **MAKE STRAIGHT PATHS FOR YOUR FEET, SO THAT THE LIMB WHICH IS LAME MAY NOT BE PUT OUT OF JOINT, BUT RATHER BE HEALED.**

- *The chastening is your defining moment: rebel or servant? Will you submit to God's chastening? Will you grow weary and give up? Will you resent God and rebel?*
- *Make straight paths - eliminate and abstain from anything that would distract you to the left or to the right away from the Lord.*
- *God's chastening has inflicted it's wound; you are now lame. If you rebel, it will only get worse for you, the lame will be put out of joint. But if you submit, the lame will be healed.*

Hosea 6:1-3 NASB

1 "Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.

2 "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.

3 "So let us know, let us press on to know the LORD. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, Like the spring rain watering the earth."

**14 PURSUE** peace with all men, **AND THE SANCTIFICATION WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD.**

- **sanctification** (*hagiasmos - purification, consecration, the process of becoming holy, the process of separation from sin and separation to God*)
- **YOU WILL NOT SEE GOD WITHOUT BEING SANCTIFIED.**
- *Sanctification does not mean sinless perfection. You will not see God if you are not habitually submitting yourself to God's process of making you holy.*

**15 SEE TO IT THAT NO ONE COMES SHORT OF THE GRACE OF GOD; THAT NO ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP CAUSES TROUBLE, AND BY IT MANY BE DEFILED;**

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 NASB

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself!

8 Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

**16 THAT THERE BE NO IMMORAL OR GODLESS PERSON LIKE ESAU, WHO SOLD HIS OWN BIRTHRIGHT FOR A SINGLE MEAL.**

Hebrews 3:12–13 NASB

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**17** For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

- **YOU WILL NOT SEE GOD WITHOUT BEING SANCTIFIED.**

**18** For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

**19** and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

**20** For they could not bear the command, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT WILL BE STONED."

**21** And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I AM FULL OF FEAR and trembling."

**22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

**23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

**24** and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

**25** SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE HIM WHO IS SPEAKING. FOR IF THOSE DID NOT ESCAPE WHEN THEY REFUSED HIM WHO WARNED THEM ON EARTH, MUCH LESS WILL WE ESCAPE WHO TURN AWAY FROM HIM WHO WARNS FROM HEAVEN.

**26** And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.”

**27** THIS EXPRESSION, “YET ONCE MORE,” DENOTES THE REMOVING OF THOSE THINGS WHICH CAN BE SHAKEN, AS OF CREATED THINGS, SO THAT THOSE THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN MAY REMAIN.

*Just as the individual Christian is chastened, so also is the Church shaken so it can be purified.*

Acts 5:1 NASB

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?

4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well."

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

**28** THEREFORE, SINCE WE RECEIVE A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE SHAKEN, LET US SHOW GRATITUDE, BY WHICH WE MAY OFFER TO GOD AN ACCEPTABLE SERVICE WITH REVERENCE AND AWE;

**29** FOR OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.