

## The Chastening of the Lord

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### THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD

1. **GOD'S CHASTENING IS GOD TRAINING HIS CHILDREN THROUGH THE DISCIPLINE AND EXERCISE OF LIFE EXPERIENCE, ADVERSITY AND SUFFERING.**

**Through the chastening and exercise of life experience, God removes in us what needs to be removed and God builds in us what is lacking. God's chastening is both corrective and constructive.**

*John 15:2-4 ESV*

*2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

*3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.*

*4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

**In the exercise of God's chastening and discipline, He deals with His children through 3 primary methods:**

- **THE WORD OF GOD** *instructs us.*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV*

*16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

*17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT** *illuminates our hearts and minds to understand His Word.*

*John 16:12-13 ESV*

*12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

*13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*

- **THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SEASONS OF OUR LIFE** *provide the opportunities and the exercise to get what the Holy Spirit has illuminated to be applied and working in our life experience and life choices. That's where true transformation occurs.*

*Hebrews 5:12-14 ESV*

*12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,*

*13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.*

*14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

*Doctrine becomes conviction in the school of life experience.  
If doctrine remains doctrine we will die in vain religion.  
When doctrine becomes conviction, then faith becomes reality.*

**2. GOD'S CHASTENING IS DESIGNED, ORCHESTRATED AND SUPERVISED BY GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY.**

**Hebrews 12:1** ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**Psalms 37:23-24** NASB

23 The steps of a man are established (*kuwn - prepare, make ready, fixed, established, provide*) by the LORD,  
And He delights in his way.

24 When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.

**Proverbs 16:33** ESV

33 The lot (*gowral - pebbles used for making decisions and determining a portion or destiny*) is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** ESV

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** ESV

11 He has made everything beautiful (*yapheh - beautiful, excellent, good, appropriate*) in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** ESV

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

**3. GOD'S CHASTENING IS DISCIPLINARY AND CORRECTIVE.**

**Galatians 6:7-8** ESV

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

## 2 Samuel 12:9-14 ESV

9 Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

11 Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun."

13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

## 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 ESV

27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

## 4. GOD'S CHASTENING TESTS OUR ENDURANCE, OUR SURRENDER, OUR FAITH AND OUR LOVE.

### Hebrews 12:1-4 ESV

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- *The greatest threat to not finishing the race set before us is becoming weary and fainthearted.*

4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

### Hebrews 12:12-29 ESV

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

- *The attitude of your response will determine if you endure.*
- *"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word." Psalm 119:67*

- *"It is for discipline that you have to endure." Hebrews 12:7*

**13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.**

- *God's chastening can either cripple you or heal you - your choice.*

**14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**

- *God's chastening is His love for me, exercising me in holiness so that I can see the Lord!*

**15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;**

- *We can abort God's chastening and become bastards by being resentful and bitter towards God.*

**16 that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.**

- *In the rigor of God's chastening, don't be tempted to think, "I deserve to indulge myself!"*

**17 For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.**

- *If you deliberately, willfully and repeatedly pursue self-indulgence in the midst of chastening, there comes a point when God turns you over and you will not find your way back to repentance.*

**18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest**

**19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.**

**20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."**

**21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."**

**22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,**

**23 and to the assembly 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 that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**

**25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.**

- *If we can't escape God's judgment when He speaks through His human instruments, how much more will we not escape when God is speaking to us directly by His Holy Spirit!*

**26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."**

**27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken--that is, things that have been made--in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.**

- *Can you be shaken out of the Kingdom of God by God's chastening? Will you become offended, stubborn and proud at His rebuke? Or will you surrender to His work in your heart and life?*

**28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,**

**29 for our God is a consuming fire.**