

Difficult and Hard to Understand Passages

God's Chastening – The Importance of YOUR Soul!

Hebrews 12:5-6

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;

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

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What should be our response to this discipline?

1. The child of God must not despise it!
2. We must not faint under the impact of it!
3. We must submit to it!

(O Lord, may thy will, not mine, be done!)

4. Strive for the deepening and maturing of our faith under the chastening!

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C.S. Lewis once wrote:

*"God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks to us in our conscience,
but shouts to us in our pains:
it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world!"*

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A survey was conducted and asked people this question: What would you ask if you were given the opportunity to ask God just one question?

The #1 answer: Why is there so much suffering the world?

The #2 answer: Why do bad things happen to good people?

Difficult and Hard to Understand

betrayal

sorrow

health issues

disappointment

job problems

injuries

illness

broken relationships

depression

wars

mass shootings

chronic diseases

crime

lies

death of loved ones

famines

genocide

jealousy

evil people

marriage problems

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Let's consider passages throughout both the OT and NT regarding God's discipline of His children:

Hebrews 12:7-11

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?

⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

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Let's consider passages throughout both the OT and NT regarding God's discipline of His children:

Hebrews 12:7-11

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.

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Let's consider passages throughout both the OT and NT regarding God's discipline of His children:

Hebrews 12:7-11

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.

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Let's consider passages throughout both the OT and NT regarding God's discipline of His children:

II Timothy 3:12

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

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But ***how*** does God discipline us?? By sending sorrow, suffering, and bitter trials upon those he loves?

Certainly not!!

Lamentations 3:33

³³ For He does not afflict willingly
Or grieve the sons of men.

II Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

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But how does God discipline us?? By sending sorrow, suffering, and bitter trials upon those he loves?
Certainly not!!

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

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But how does God discipline us?? By sending sorrow, suffering, and bitter trials upon those he loves?
Certainly not!!

James 1:2-4

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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But how does God discipline us?? By sending sorrow, suffering, and bitter trials upon those he loves?
Certainly not!!

I Corinthians 10:11

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come

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But how does God discipline us?? By sending sorrow, suffering, and bitter trials upon those he loves?
Certainly not!!

I Corinthians 11:32

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

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.

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Consider the story of Peter in Luke 22:31-34

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Luke 22:31-34

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded *permission* to sift you like wheat;
³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

³³ But he said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" ³⁴ And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

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David demonstrated his humility during times of chastisement and discipline by pleading for God to be gracious and discipline!

Psalms 51:1-3

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.

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David demonstrated his humility during times of chastisement and discipline by pleading for God to be gracious and discipline!

Psalms 94:12-14

¹² Blessed is the man whom You chasten, O LORD,
And whom You teach out of Your law;

¹³ That You may grant him relief from the days of
adversity,

Until a pit is dug for the wicked.

¹⁴ For the LORD will not abandon His people,
Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

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David demonstrated his humility during times of chastisement and discipline by pleading for God to be gracious and discipline!

Psalms 103:10-11

¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear
Him.

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David demonstrated his humility during times of chastisement and discipline by pleading for God to be gracious and discipline!

Psalms 119-66,67

⁶⁶ Teach me good discernment and knowledge,
For I believe in Your commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray,
But now I keep Your word.

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Solomon also gave great insight regarding the necessity of God's discipline!

Proverbs 3:11-12

- 11** My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD
Or loathe His reproof,
- 12** For whom the LORD loves He reproofs,

Proverbs 12:1

- 1** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.

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It is unquestionably a common theme throughout the OT regarding the importance of God's discipline! Here are examples from Moses and certainly, Job.

Deuteronomy 8:5-6

⁵ Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

⁶ Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

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It is unquestionably a common theme throughout the OT regarding the importance of God's discipline! Here are examples from Moses and certainly, Job.

Job 5:17-18

¹⁷ "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves,
So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

¹⁸ "For He inflicts pain, and gives relief;
He wounds, and His hands *also* heal.

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Our conclusions:

1. There is an implication from the scriptures that persecution from evil-doers (because Christians are good rather than evil) is to be regarded as a form of divine discipline.
(Matthew 10:22)

²² You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

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Our conclusions (cont.):

2. God allows (not sends!) trials and persecutions to develop, mold, and mature our Christian character. (Lamentations 3:33)
3. Discipline is God's way to make "all things work out for good." (Romans 8:28)

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Our conclusions (cont.):

4. From our experiences of discipline, if we love God and do His will, we emerge strengthened, refined, and better fit for His purposes!

5. God's discipline is evidence we are his children. Far from being a reason for despair, it should rather be perceived as a foundation for encouragement! (Hebrews 12:7-8)

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Our conclusions (cont.):

6. Remember, Jesus suffered far more than we will ever be asked to endure. This must stand as our greatest encouragement to not become weary in our trials! (Matthew 20:18-19)

¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹ and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify *Him*, and on the third day He will be raised up."

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Our conclusions (cont.):

7. We must endeavor to learn to recognize suffering and persecution as corrective and instructive training in our spiritual development as the children of a loving God!

(Revelation 3:19)

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Our conclusions (cont.):

8. There are three principle objectives involved which outline the purpose of chastening:
 - a. Correcting our faults!
 - b. Strengthening our faith!
 - c. Stimulating our eternal welfare!

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Our conclusions (continued):

9. Finally, let us not forget that we were promised to **never** be tempted beyond what we are able to resist. The discipline of God will **never** be more than we can tolerate!

(I Corinthians 10:13)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

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