

Title: WHY ME Lord? (Hay, Dad! Why Spank me?)

Text: Hebrews 12:10-11

Turn to the Book of Hebrews, chapter 12. Hebrews chapter 12 and verse 10-11. We are look^{ing} at the encouragement that Jesus gives us concerning sufferings. This encouragement actually begins at Vs 5 where we ~~are~~ ^{are} reminded to ~~not~~ not to forget the exhortation. And this kind of discipline that is being taught, here, in these verses is not a burden on your life. But, rather it is an encouragement...a building of your life. It is what we all need.

In Verse 5-8 we learned about the effect discipline has on our ~~relationship~~ relationship to God. We are told very clearly that the Lord loves ~~those who~~ ^{those who} he disciplines. And if we are without discipline, it is questionable whether we are truly related to Christ.

Then, in Verse 9 we learn about our response to discipline. HOW WILL WE RESPOND TO THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD? You see the purpose of discipline according to Vs 9 is Subjection. God brings discipline into the believers life because he wants to build within us a submissive heart.

(3D) Now, we come to Vs 10 and 11. These verse deal with the reasons for discipline.

Hebrews 12:10-11(read)

Pray

(1E) Now, as to the reasons for discipline, first of all I would like you to see these reasons in terms of a comparison between physical and spiritual discipline. In vs 10, there is this comparison... (read vs 10), and I would like you to see this comparison between physical and spiritual discipline in two ways.

(1F) First of all, as it relates to time. According to Vs 10, physical fathers will discipline only for a short time. The contrast is that God will discipline over a whole life time.

But Physical fathers, what you do, you have better do early. Because the older a child gets the discipline act changes and the discipline will also diminish. The child one day will be an adult and responsible and he will be disciplining somebody. And you will no longer have the opportunity that you have when he is in your home.

So, the point is that a physical father disciplines only for a short time, but God discipline over a life time. ~~The contrast between a few and a long time.~~

You see, some of us have the idea that we go through a stage of discipline as a christian. And then you grow out of it. Then you are on cloud 9, and you smile much more than you use to; and you are always turned on.. life is just fantastic. You know, you learn to say the right spiritual words....like:...."fantastic"....."fellowship"....."sharing"...

And to prove to everybody that you are really on the top of everything. You do this by using the right words. Because you wouldn't want to meet some other Christian with a face as long as can be, and you wouldn't want to say when they ask you: "How is everything going?"...to say: "Man, let me tell you, I am wiped out, I can't stand it."

You don't want to say that....You want to say: "FINE...FANTASTICE..." And that is suppose to prove something about your spiritual maturity. Isn't it funny how we relate our spiritual maturity to things we say ^{and} we don't say....And we judge others by whether or not they use the right "spiritual words"....

God's word teaches that if you are mature you can be honesty..You can say: "Praise the Lord, I am going through it, but I know that God is here." Now, that is more honesty...Count it all joy when you fall into various trails.

Listen, God is going to bring testing into our lives constantly. Don't look for the day when you are going to be without it..Instead ask God to give you the understanding of what it is like to have the joy of

the Lord in your testing. And ask for understanding to see how God wants to use the testing to build you up live. And thank him for it. And realize that you are going to have discipline untill the day Jesus returns or God calls you home. You are going to continue to have discipline in your life.

(2F) Not only does it relate to time, but secondly, see how this comparison relates to motivation.

Vs 10 says: "for ~~they~~ (physical fathers) discipline us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He(God) disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness."

Now, what does that mean? The first phrase relating to our physical father, if I could translate literally it would go: "it means they were continually disciplining us according to what they thought was godd. And the key ~~is~~ on the word "thought"...You know, I like that. It helps to explain something...

We fathers and mothers in the home, we make a lot of mistakes. Let's face it. We really do.. But, you know, we think we are doing right.

The point is: that fathers in their discipline are trying to do the right thing. Now, mabybe they have make a lot of mistakes. But they are trying to do what they think is ~~right~~ ^{right}.

Here, is the neat thing about this....As I look at this verse, I think about how often I have blown it with my kids. Then I look at God and realize that he never blows it...

God doesn't think what he is doing is good..HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOIN G IS GOOD...Romans 8:28 says "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God."

Isn't that encouraging. There isn't a single thing happening in my life that isn't for my good...God knows what he is doing...

I think I am doing the best I can with my children. I try to follow what the scriptures teach. But, I ~~am~~ make many, many mistakes....

But, God never makes one...NOT ONE....

So, when you contrast this with God's motivation in Vs 10, it says that he does all of his discipline for ~~our~~ our profit..that we may share in His holiness. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Well, the word "profite" means "to bring together"...That is the root idea, "to bring together." EXAMPLE: When the Holy Spirit gave spiritual gifts to the body(I Cor 12:7) Paul said it was for the profit of the whole body....It means to bring it together so that all the members are brought together and functioning properly...

The Point is: that when God works in our lives, he brings together the discipline and its results...which is maturity..God brings it together. That is what he is doing. He is bringing together in our lives, our profit, is bring together discipline and the result *which is maturity*

The thing that really got awoled of me is that God never disciplines me without results...Isn't that great..There is always results. And they are always for my good and my blessing. That is the way God is doing it. And I praise him for it. And according to the Bible, the specific result is I partake of His Holiness.

Now, what does that mean? Holiness deals with separation. God is separate from everything that he created because he is the creator. Also, he is separated from anything that is unclean or sinful.

Peter wrote in his first letter that we are to be holy or separate as Christians because God is Holy. In other words, to have an effective relationship with God, we, also, must be separate from sin.

Now, I learn another principle...God is bringing discipline into my life and yours ... so that we might be more and more separated from the defilement and sin in our lives. So that, we may become more effective and powerful, and fruitfull as Christians....That is the concept and meaning of this verse.

God brings discipline to you for your good. So that, ~~you~~ will not partake in sin..But rather partake in ~~to~~ ^{Him} who is separate from sin. To have a life and a quality of life that is not being ~~and~~ defiled and destroyed and ruined by sin. But is rather being built to be fruitfull, and powerful, and effective for God. Tremendous

The life that is living in sin as a habit of life is destroying itself. It is losing its power, it is losing effectiveness, it is causing problems were ever it goes.

The life that is going towards God is a separation from sin is a life becoming more and more powerful and more and more effective. And isn't it wonderful that God isn't even going to wait for us to be properly motivated that way...We could sit around alday and say, "I'm going to stop serving sin, and I am now going to serve God."

And God listens to you and says: "Sure, much talk. It is cheep." And so God helps us out...God puts discipline into our lives because he loves us...You know, everthing is of GRACE...Did you know that....

God's grace is so fantastic....God's grace is so wonderful that he is going to do for you what he knows you are not going to do from your own motivation...Because you are not even capable of it....He knows you are prone to wonder, to head ~~to~~ towards sin every time you turn around. God knows that. So he brings discipline into your life out of love. And his Grace extends to you corrective measures in ~~your~~ your life that you wouldn't have willingly taken yourself...So, God disciplines you so you will take corrective measures and become ~~more~~ more effective in Christian living.

Stop I think that is a tremendous Bible principle to lach on to... *and Respond to*

(2E) Then, in Vs 11, I want you to see ~~the~~ *the* reasons for discipline in the characteristics of discipline

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There are two things that I want you to see in Vs 11, about the Characteristics of discipline, showing us why God is bringing it into our life. It says: "all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful." I always include "Amen" after this phrase....."but sorrowful."

(1F) So, the first thing that I want you to notice is the present pain of discipline.

The point of this is: that all discipline, no matter what it is, seems to be, to you at the time you go through it, as pain and not joy....And it does. From a human point of view, all discipline appears to be sorrowful or painful. And not joy.

(2F) But don't stop there. Please notice the furture product. The verse says: "yet to those who have been ^{responded} trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

Now, that is an exciting principle. Let me break it down in three ways.

(1G) First of all, God is telling you the channel through which you experience results....What is the channel through which I receive the peaceful fruit of righteousness? It is through discipline. The little word "it" refers back the the subject which is discipline. The channel through which I get the blessed privilege of living in joy and peace in my life ~~and~~ a life that is really producing for God, is through discipline. That is the ~~chrennel~~ channel through which I receive it....

(2G) Secondly, he discribes the ^{How we give} conflict we experience. According to Vs 11, it says "to those who have been ^{Responded} trained by it."

You know, we are told on every front, the great need to exerise the body. So, every now and then, I get to urge to start a program of physical fitness. And so I start running....It usually last one day and then my physical fitness program goes out the window....

And you know, as I look at my spiritual life, often it is much the same way...God knows what he is doing. And much of what we suffer is like being ~~s~~exerised. What we go through is like the agony of a running training, for the big race.

And according to the Bible you are going to experience conflict when God disciplines you.

But, the blessing comes to those who are trained by it...Not, those who give up and quite. But those who are trained by the discipline of that life.

(3G) And then finally, notice the content that God is producing in my life. God describes it as the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Or, if you want to put it another way. It is a righteousness characterized by peace. You see, peace is the opposite of strife and bitterness, and resentment, and hostile....If I really want to have the proper attitude towards God, and to have peace in my heart, I need testing...

Practical righteousness would be maturity. Maturity in my life.. It produces results. Fruit..that is always characterized by God's peace....

In light of this, Phillipians 4:6 should mean more to you. It says: "Don't be anxious for anything." That is don't be side tracked by anything that would get you off the track of believing that all things are from God. That he is bring that discipline into your life. Don't be misled in anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests by made known to God. And the peace of God shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

So that
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Listen, God is bringing discipline so that we will be men and woman of peace, *So that we will be effective, productive, and fruitful christians -*

Let's close in prayer

Key - Response - How Will You Respond?

Shall We Pray