

~~(Our Relationship to God)~~

Title: An Exhortation Based on the Example of Christ (Have you forgotten)

Text: Hebrews 12:5-8

Turn in your Bibles to the Book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 12, verse 5-8 as we continue our study of suffering by looking at the example of Jesus Christ. Now, we have study Vs 1-4 as to our responsibility. Vs 3 tells us to consider Jesus who has endured hostility by sinners against himself. And we are told in Vs 2 to fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

(2C) Now, on the bases of the example of Christ, in Vs 5-11 we have an Exhortation. (1D) However, we will only look at Vs 5-8. This is talking about an O.T. passage in Proverbs chapter 3:11-12. ~~In fact it is quoted so many times that it will not even have to turn to Proverbs.~~ ^{Paul takes this} And in this teaching ^{Paul} that O.T. passage, ~~Paul takes that~~ ^{encourages} and exhorts the Christian, based on the example of Christ. *So, we will look at our Relationship to God.* Please follow along in your Bibles.... *Read Heb 12:5-6*

Hebrews 12:3-8

This Relationship to God as seen in Prayer

(1F) *(Think of Son love that you are going through)*

(1E) In this teaching from the O.T., I notice, first of all, according to Vs 5, that it relates to the Spiritual development of my life. All of the suffering, all of the testing, is related to the Spiritual development of my life. Now, Paul says in Vs 5 "You have forgotten the exhortation."

You know, our big problem is right there. WE FORGET. The Bible says in Romans 12:2 that we are transformed by the renewing of our mind. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells me to ^{look} into the mirror continuously. That is, the mirror of the Word that I ~~may~~ ^{may} be transformed into the same image of Christ.

Spiritual Growth is fundamentally related to my knowledge of God's Word....Spiritual life and growth can not be separated from my understanding and knowledge of God's Word. It is the food to my soul. It is the meat of the Word. And Paul says: "YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN."

You see, they had the O.T. scriptures. They could have studied the Book of Proverbs. But he says, You have forgotten. You might of heard it once, but you have forgotten it now. ^{ad miss} ~~That must be why~~ you can not ^{handle} ~~see~~ the trails and the disciplines and the sufferings right now.

And I learn a Principle at this point: Maybe one of the reasons why I am not able to endure the testings and sufferings of this ~~world~~ ^{life}, because I forget the encouragement of God's Word. I forget what the Bible teaches as to why God is causing suffering. Why! God's purposes are being fulfilled in my life through testings and sufferings... I FORGOT IT.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? Have you forgotten what God's Word really teaches? About how suffering and testing will develop your life spiritually.

Now, the word "exhortation" is translated many times throughout the Bible as "encouragement"....It is also translated "comfort" or consolation.

Baranbas was called the son of encouragement. Same Word.

When we speak of the Holy Spirit being the comforter, it is the same ~~word~~ word.

When Jesus said I will send you another comforter, meaning one just like myself, the word he used as "myself" was the same word.

The word means: "one called along side of.".....

When we talk about a spiritual gift of "exhortation" or "comfort" or "counsel", it is the same word. One called along side of to build up and to encourage. Giving positive direction and counsel. It is never looked at ^{as} "negative rebuke." It is always "positive" building up.

So, the Bible says the thing that is wrong ^{with} you, the reason why you are not able to endure your trials and sufferings is because you have forgotten the positive encouragement of God's Word.

And I realize that because the last thing you do in an hour of crises and pressure and trouble ~~word~~ ...the last thing most christians do is to go ~~to~~ the Word and find out what the Word says about the problem.

And yet, that is the very thing we need in that hour of testing.

We need to go to the Word and see what God really teaches should be my reaction, my attitude at this hour of need. Have you forgotten the encouragement of God's Word?

(10) ^{has} There are two things, here, related to the spiritual development of ^{your} life according to Vs 5... One deals with our attitude towards discipline.

What is your attitude towards the discipline that God is bringing into your life? Vs 5: "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord."

Now, what is the discipline of the Lord? Just what is it?

First of all, ~~This~~ ^{discipline} word was used, ~~very commonly~~, in Roman Times, of a child who was placed under the instruction and leadership of a tutor. A man with some means of wealth would take his children and place them under a man called a "tutor." ~~And~~ that tutor became totally responsible for that child. Now, the father should have known that ~~it~~ ^{his} was responsible, that is what the Bible teaches, so don't miss the illustration. The father should have been instructing and disciplining his children; but what they did in Roman times, because of their pleasure loving society, they would hire a tutor. And he would be paid to be a father to that child.

OK what did this tutor do? He was basical responsible for three things.

(1) One, according to Roman custom ^{he} had to teach the child all of the course that were necessary for him in his educational process. So, he was a teacher.

(2) Number two, he was to give direction to the child's life. He was to teach the child a skill.....Perhaps he would be a carpenter or a mason or a university.....teacher. But the tutor was to give that child direction..to where he might go in life.

(3) And the third things, was, according to their custom was the most difficult of all. He was to discipline the child when he saw him going astray. And it was unto the tutor as to the form of discipline. He could spank the child or restrict him from going out. Same kind of discipline we use today, you see.

So, the tuitor was responsible for these three things.

Now, isn't it amazing that the Bible really teaches exactly the same three things...And all three things are simply called in your Bibles "discipline" or "chastisement"(KJ). SO, I LEARN A PRINCIPLE ..

And I really had to learn this. And I am still learning it. And so will you. That discipline from God is not simply correction, like spanking a child. So often we see our sufferings and our troubles as God spanking us. Oh...he may be. But, it is not simply that. It is teaching. It is giving direction to your life. It is positive encouragement to you. ~~BLESSED~~ THANK GOD, for testings or some of us would frankly ruin our lives. God brings the discipline because he knows what we need. And He is not only correcting an action that maybe ^{is} wrong, but He is also giving us positive direction as to where we should go; and teaching us how to be more mature and effective in all of life...THAT REALLY BLESSED ME...When you get that into your brain, the whole passage begins to take a new perspective. God is bringing discipline. And I have forgotten, according to this passage, the encouragement which discipline is. So, Paul says, never treat it lightly.

Folks, don't take lightly the discipline that God gives to you. Espeical in the little things of life. God is trying to make us what He wants us to be. And we ought to praise the Lord. He loves us so much He doesn't want us to get on the wrong path in any area of life..Thank God...For that...
(2G) Now, secondly, in Vs 5, your acceptance of discipline is also involved. *(NOT as attitude but acceptance)*

The last phrase of Vs 5 says "nor faint when you are reproved by him." And guess what? We have the same idea express here in Vs 5 that we had in Vs 3. The Point is...don't give up when you are being reproved. Except it as from the Lord. ^UThank you, Lord!" Don't give up and say "it is not worth it." Oh, no, the Bible says we are to except all things as beinging truely from God.

For all things are working together for good to those who love God, says Romans 8:28. It is the "all things" when they are bad that we have trouble with. The "all things" if they are good...Hay, Praise the Lord."...

But, "all things" when they are bad, at least from the human perspective well that is a different thing. And it is more difficult to say "Thank you Jesus." I know this is hard. But, friends, the trails, the testings, the sufferings, the physical illness, the loss of my job, the criticism of my neighbors, and everything that you are going through..."THANK YOU JESUS, THAT YOU HAVE CAUSED ALL OF THIS IN MY LIFE."

(2F) Now there is another great principle found in Vs 6. All these trails are a deminstration of God's love. That is right. All these trails are a deminstration of God's love. That is what that O.T. passage is trying to teach us. Not only that they develop us spiritually, but also, that they are a deminstration of God's love.

Now, how can one deminstrate God's love?.....This question came to my mind because in this passage the Bible says that God shows his love through discipline. And you know, that is a beautiful thought. God deminstrates his love towards us by means of disciplêne.

Vs 6 says, "For those whamme the Lord loves He disciiplines and He scourges every son whom he receives."

The word "discipline" as I mentioned before is a positive word meaning: "teaching" or "direction". But, when you come to the word "scourging" there is only one simple meaning. It is negative correction. To scourge somebody means to beat him on the back. And some times God has to take a two-by-four and hi\$ us over the head just to get our attention.

There are two kinds of things that are involvèd in God's pattern of discipline for us in trails. One is postive and the other is negative. *But* God is deminstrating his love. In other words, He loves me so much that He wants me to get back on the right track. So, he scourages every son whom He receives. He gives me negative correction. Things that really hurt.

But, because He loves me, He sees me going in a direction that I shouldn't be going, and He brings the discipline and he stops me. At that point, don't rebel, don't get hostile towards God and the church. Listen, God loves you. Thank Him that He loves you so much.

You know, some people believe that since we are saved by grace and we are not under law, we can do anything we want. My answer to you is...go ahead and try....Oh, listen, my friends, the God I know...Loves me. He loves me so much that when I get set on a course that is wrong, God in His love comes with that rebuke and correction. The Lord loves those whom he disciplines. He loves the son whom He will scourge. And he loves you so much he willn't let you ruin your life...Praise God....

(Let's close in prayer)

(2E) Let's move on to Vs 7-8. In these verses our relationship to God is seen in the testings we experience. And there are two things I want to point out to you from Vs 7 and 8.

(1F) First, is the need for these trails. According to Vs 7 "it is for discipline that you endure." Now, I would like to point out something here. And you might want to make a little note if you are using the KJV. I know that some of you don't like it when I do this. But, I must if I am to teach correctly. In the KJV it says "If you ~~endure~~ endure". The word "if" is not in the Greek text at all. And it is important to know that because, you see, it is not a conditional clause. Paul is not saying "If you endure discipline Then God will deal with you as sons.

He is not saying that...WHY?,".Because, by faith, I am already a son. And that means that I will endure discipline. It doesn't meand that "if" I get a little suffering in my life then God will deal with me as a son. Oh, no..the fact that you are a son means that you will have discipline. The word "if" is not in the Greek text. Literally it says ..."unto discipline you are enduring....."

And this is important ^{consider} to understanding suffering. You see, this now tells me the need for the trails.. Unto discipline is talking about the goal of why I need to bear up under suffering. ^{On}

Unto ..positive correction in my life.

Unto..positive development in my life.

And this is why I am to bear up under....LEARN A PRINCIPLE, HERE.

Apply it To Your Life

Nobody learns anything from a trails if they don't bear up under them. Listen, it is not simply that we get overwhelmed and crushed by them, and then to say: "Well, the Lord is teaching me something." "even though I am wiped out."

NO, The teaching, the positive correction and direction comes when we see the bearing up under. Not the giving up.. We were warn back in Vs 6 about giving up. NO, it is bearing up under those trails...

SO,...UNTO DISCIPLINE YOU ARE ENDURING.....And the fact is that it proves that you belong to God...God does deal with you as sons. ~~For~~ what son is there that the Father does not discipline...

(2F) Secondly, consider not only the need for these trails, but also the necessity of these trails to prove that I belong to God.

Vs 8 says: "But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers." Now, that gives me encouragement. I am not alone. Everybody is coming under God's discipline. "Then are you illegitimate children and not sons."

Listen, I need trails. I need testing, I need sufferings in my life, because without it, according to the Bible, I don't even belong to God.. And isn't it sad that some Christians try to make other christians believe that suffering is a sign ~~of~~ that you are not right with God....Or... you are not doing what you should or it willn't happen.....OR....You must be really, really in trouble.....*Oh, you don't have faith!*

And it starts to work on you mental...Boy, I really must be on God's bad side.....

No, listen, even in times of correction, when we are sinning, God is turning us around and bringing us back to himself, Even that God uses. Even when Satan brings his trails and testings into our lives... Even that God uses (I Peter 5:8-10)

All the trails, God uses every bit of it... And there are many, many trials, and we haven't sinned, but they are still there, ~~they are still there.~~

So, when a testing or a trail comes, STOP and thank God. Thank you God, for what you are doing in my life.....

Take away the fear, take away the legalism, take away all the fences that we build, and simply say: Lord, you know best and you are working in my life your perfect plan.. Thank you..

He will open the doors and he will shut them.... And he has beautiful ways of doing that.... HE LOVES YOU SO MUCH.

and we operate in the flesh

Our big problem is that we forget he loves us.. And he is doing every thing for our good... Why? Because he loves us.

Let's close with Prayer

He Loves You so much - Do you love Him?