

Title: The Father's Discipline (*Respect, a spanking!!*)

Text: Hebrews ~~12:9-11~~ 12:9-11

Will you take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews chapter 12. Hebrews chapter 12. And we are going to look at Verse 9, ~~10~~ 11.

Tonight I would have you consider something about the Father's discipline

Read Hebrews 12:9-11

WOULD YOU JOIN ME FOR A MOMENT OF PRAYER

The exhortation that is given to us here in Hebrews 12 actually begins at Vs 5 in which we were reminded, if you will remember, to not forget the exhortation. The word exhortation does not mean that you grab one by the coat and forcing ^{Something} ~~it~~ ^{his} down your throat. It is a word meaning "confort." "Counsel". "One called along side-off" to encourage and to build you up.

This kind of teaching on discipline is not a burden on your life. It is an encouragement ... a building of your life...It is what we all need.

We learned, also, about this discipline that it effects our relationship to God. Vs 5- 8, told us this very clearly. The Lord loves whom he disciplines. And if we are without discipline, ^{VSP} it is questionable whether we are truly related to Christ.

and Some people say: "Well, I don't really suffer like I see some suffering. Remember that there are many different kinds of discipline in the Bible.

Remember, also, that discipline is not simply correction or punishment. That is, ^{it's} ~~also~~, involves teaching and direction. As I mentioned last time together, it is a very broad term.

When we talk about the discipline of the Lord, there are many areas in which He is working. Not simply corrective. Sometimes there is positive ~~and~~ instruction and direction.

From Example

Sometimes ~~the~~^{our} plans that go wrong are a blessing. Because God is sparing us from really hurting our lives. And he is giving us more direct teaching and counsel that we need to make us succesful, and happy, and effective.

* So, all of God's discipline is not simplyely correction of wrongs and mistakes that we have done. It is rather guiding and directing and putting our lives into a place where He can really use us...

We, also, looked, somewhat, at the matter of endurance of this discipline. This started really at Vs 1 of chapter 12 where we are told to run with endurance the race that is set before. This ~~really~~^{race} is the aagany that comes to a Christian in life struggles...Dealing with the discipline of the Lord, with the testings and the temptations that we all experience. This whole chapter is still talking about the same thing. It is talking about the ~~resistance~~^{Testings} that we all experience, and it is for our good.

Now, that testing maynot be...going into the hospital with a serious illness...Now, that certainly is suffering...But, that testing maybe something like: "Our friends, who we knew before we became a Christian now avioding us and caring little about attaching themselves to us. That is a discipline in and of itself....

There ~~are~~^{are} many kinds of discipline. In fact, the Bible has a ~~great deal~~^{more} to say about unbelievers reactions to believers ~~that~~^{her} about sickness being a discipline.....

So, you see, there are many things that we need to learn...about discipline and why God causes it in our lives, and what it is all about. Certainly he is building us and making us more mature.

Now, I want to look at ~~one~~^{ONE} simple things in ~~these~~^{This} verse.

(2D.) ~~.....~~, In Vs 9, ~~we~~ want to look at OUR RESPONSE TO DISCIPLINE .

The kind of attitudes that we should have. And this is very important. Even in a physical family. In fact, ~~we will~~^{The verse} consider the physical family first. And then the spiritual family....

And this text is really ~~drawing~~ drawing a constrast between the two: the phyiscal family over against the spiriutual family.

If you were translating literally, Vs 9 would begin: "But on the one hand we have earthly fathers." Then the next statement beginning with the word "shall" in my text would be: "On the otheer hand should we not be subject to the Fajer of spirts."

You see, it is comparing the two families...Physical and spiritual families. *Now, in relation to our response to Discipline,*

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
(LE)....Let's look, first of all, at the physical family concerning the discipline of a father in his home. *How Will Your Respond* According to Vs 9, it says, "Furthermore" or "on the one hand" we have had earthly fathers(meaning physical family) who have disciplined us."

Literally, in the Greek, it says: "Fathers as discipliners.."Meaning:.. Fathers are chiefly and fundamental responsible for discipline. It is not a joint or shared function.

In fact, it is in a noun form and discribes Fathers as the discipliners in a home...In the physical family, God's Word teaches that the Father is responsible for discipline.....

As I study through this matter, ~~especial as we have been studing the Proverbs,~~ I am amazed how often God indicates that it is the Father who is responsbile for discipline. *(Doing God's Will)*

and In Ephesians 6 were it tells us that children are to obey their parants. And Fathers are not to provoke their children. Often, some christians will say that that is referring to parants....Oh, No, it is the word for Fathers in the Greek. And the Bible contenes to teach the Fathers responsibility in discipline. He was the one to be the teacher in the home. He was the one to give direction in a home. He is the one to apply the rod of correction in the home. IT IS THE FATHER.

Now, you know why we have disephe probl - How? ~~_____~~

In Proverbs 13:24 it says that "he who spares his rod hates his son
But he who loves him disciplines him early."

Now, I know a lot of wives, eat their hearts out because of a lack of discipline on the part of the husband in terms of the home and the children. And they often wind-up having to discipline in the place of the father, and this becomes a very confusing order of responsibility in the home.

Now, I believe that Mothers, also, have to discipline. But, I believe the Bible teaches that that is best seen under the direction and leadership of the Father and husband in the home.

I would like you to turn to Proverbs and I would like to run through ~~without comment~~ some of the verses dealing with discipline and then bring them into application towards our spiritual family as well... I hope you will write these verse down. You will need them. Probable today...

I already mentioned Proverbs 13:24....

Now, look at 15:32-33.^(Read) I would like to just point out to you that that Verse teaches the relationship between physical and spiritual family. And it is teaching that just as a son should respond to correction in the home, because ~~he~~^{he} is going to ~~please~~^{please} his own life...As a matter of fact, if ~~he~~ refuses it, he is despising his own soul...Your inward man is going to suffer when you refuse to submit to discipline. And that really is what God's Word ^{is} trying to tell us in Hebrews 12. When we resist the discipline of the Lord in our lives, we are going to suffer deeply because of ~~that~~ ^{that} *resistance*

Now, look at Chapter 19:18....(read)

Turn to chapter 22:15 ..(read) ...Again in a physical family, I know that is true..There is no question in my mind that that is true. I am an experienced Father with four children. And I know that is true,

But, isn't it amazing how difficult it is to move that truth over into the Spiritual realm...You see, foolishness is Bound up in the heart of a child of God, and the rod of correction does draw it from him.

To often we are tempted to wonder...To treat lightly the things of God. To pay little attention to our spiritual growth. And God brings discipline into our lives. In this case, the rod of correction...Somethimes to get our ~~attention~~ ^{Teaching}, so that we are responsive and we will say: "LOrd what would you have me to do?"

Chapter 23:13-14(read) ...I like this verse. It makes me smile and remember...I remember the time I had to spank, Suzie.....You know, it is amazing how a sweet little girl can be just a rebellious kid...But, they are so sweet, you know.

Well, the time came when I had to apply discipline...Man, it hurt me to spank that little gal...I thought, man you mean, curl burt, you...

But, then one day I got ahold of this verse. You beat them with a rod and they will not die.....That gave me courage.....

Vs 14 says (read).....Sheol is the grave or the place of the departed. Very interesting.....Here it is dealing with final consequence, which is kind of an interesting application spiritually as well as physically.

Because they are both implied, here.

~~Roby's interpretation of vs 14~~
You see, one could conclude from this verse that if I don't discipline my child, I am really in a sense at fault for his failure to respond to Christ which results in eternal consequence for him.....

→ You see, discipline in the physical family does give a person a responsive and submissive heart to authority...So, that when he does see the authority of God, he responds because he has been taught the authority of the parants....through discipline...Very important.

Let's move on...Chapter 29:15, 17 ..(read)

Now, learn a truth, here, about the spiritual family. God is not going to leave you to yourself.

He loves you so much. He will not leave you to yourself. But if he does, you will ~~some~~ come to shame...

Also, learn that God takes great delight in you..And he is going to correct you so that you will bring delight to his own heart...He loves you so much that he wants you to be productive and fruitfull. And God is going to bring that pressure into your life in order to make that possible.

One other thought about beating them with a rod and they will not die. You know, a lot of times we believe that a new convert under pressure is going to fall on his face. Listen, he will not die. If he knows the Lord, he will not die. God knows what he is doing.

Sometimes wessay, "that is to much pressure for a christian to bear." No, it isn't...God never gives us any more pressure than we are able to bear....He gives us exactly what we need. He knows our root problems in our lives. And sometimes you will see a person rebellioing under that, being hostile to that pressure, for a long time. Then, sometime happens. God, uses that pressure to bring that person back....I think that is encourageing, and a source of great hope....

God is not bringing discipline, and pressure, and hard times and correction into your llfe for no reason at all. It is for very positive reasons.

Now, let's come back to Hebrews 12.....This should give us a little backgraound and understanding when we read in Vs 9, ^{so} On the one hand we have fathers that corrected us, or who were discipliners...and our response ^{should} ~~was~~: that we gave them reverance, or respect

The word doesn't mean that a young person should wr ship his father. It simply means respect.....Instead of rebelling, instead of hostility, there is the idea of a submissive heart.....When discipline is applied by a father in a home, he is developing in his child, a spirit that is turning within, rather than rebellious against or turning out against the Father.....A VERY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE

Against authority, against God

must

Discipline, therefore, is used by God to build a submissive heart.

What should our response be in our physical family?.... It should be a submissive heart to the discipline God brings...

only If you are a father, recognize that God has instructed you to apply discipline so that you bless the heart of a child. ~~Not~~ that you get the problems off your back. But, so that you can instruct and build that child's life..So that he is responsive to God and to authority where ever it is found.....That he will, therefore, be the greatest and most effective person he could possible be.... *Dedicated a child*

And by the way, God never extends the authority of anyone's life, except in proportion to his ability to submit.....Half the problem in this world is that people want to be the authority without being submissives,

Until you have a broken heart and a broken spirit, God is not going to use you.....And God will test you all down the line. He never stops testing you. He will test you to see if you are going to bow down your knee to his Word and say HE IS RIGHT AND I AM WRONG...

And the reason many christians do not grow and extend their influence as believers is because they are not submissive to God's Word....ARE YOU SUBMISSIVE TO GOD'S WORD????You must submit in order to exercise authority in any area.....

(2E) Now, let's look at our spiritual family. The end of Vs 9. "On the other hand it would say. On the one hand we have physical Fathers, on the other hand shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of Spirits, and live?"

Now Now, there are two things I want you to notice about our Spiritual family.

(1F) One is in terms of the purpose of discipline ...According to this verse the purpose of discipline, that God brings into your life and mine, IS SUBJECTION....."Shall we not much rather be ~~subject~~ subject to the father of spirits and live?

Notice, the little phrase "Father of spirits"....It is only through the SPIRIT that we understand God's dealing with us. It is there that we have spiritual life as well as Physical live.

Let me explain that. In Genese 2:7 when God made man. It says that God breathed into man's nostrils the spirit of.....In English it says, "LIFE"...singular...But in Hebrew, it is plural..."LIVES".....

You see, there was two qualities of life .. that was breathed into that physical substances that God created out of the dust of the ground.

Two qualities: Physical and spiritual life..Both...And ~~it~~ came from God who is spirit..(John 4:24)..The spirit is life and God breathed into us his life.....And it was both physical and spiritual...

When man sinned...Instead of having life we have death...Ephenes 2:1 says we are dead in tresspasses and sins, even though we are physically alive. Man, still has body, soul, and spirit. But, his spirit contains physical life, only, Until he becomes a believer.

Now, he has the spirit because James 2:26 says that the body without the spirit is dead.....And when a person becomes a Christian, his spiritual life, that has been ~~rendered~~ rendered inoperative, or inactive because of sin....dead spirituallly...it comes to life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit of God....

Man's spirit comes alive...We call that being Born Spiritually. ~~He is~~ ^{again} ~~born~~ again... And it is through the realm of spirit that we learn God's great truthsIn I Cor 2 it says that eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. For to us God revealed them through the Spirit. For who among men knows the thoughts of ^{God} ~~man~~ except the spirit which is in him.

You see, he is the father of spirits. And it is in the realm of the spirit, that quality of spritual life and ~~responsiveness~~ responsiveness to God that comes into you the moment you receive Christ. It is there where we learn the principles of God's Word. The deep ~~thoughts~~ ^{where} thoughts of God's Word....It is there ~~where~~ ^{where} the spiritual maturity occures.

Point 501

The purpose of discipline is to give us a submissive heart....

~~And God's word is full of promises, and I wish I had time to share them with you.~~ *And* God's word is full of promises to those who learn and apply the principle of discipline and submissiveness in their life. Humble yourself in the sight of God and he will exalt you. When we are broken in our hearts, *it* is then, that God really begins to bless our lives.

That is Key

So, fundamental why we are not successful as Christians, and the root issue is a failure to submit to God....

(2F) Now, not only in terms of Purpose, but Vs 9, also, tells us in terms of the proof of our relationship to God...The last phrase says: "and live." Literally, "Shall be living."

The point: If you have discipline, it is the proof that you are alive spiritually...

You know, some people have said that these messages about suffering are not what is ususally taught about suffering. Because alot of people are put down when they are suffering and being tested.

Like: what is wrong with you?....Did you do something bad? What sin did you comitt? Or, you haven't become very mature, and that is why you are suffering?.....

And that attitude is false to the N.T. The Bible teaches that the person of maturity is the person under testing...If we are without testing, our relationship to Christ, then, is questable. *Vs 8*

The point here is: We shall be living. God giving us that discipline only proves ~~the fact~~ that we are alive unto God, spiritually.
