



“The Painful Discipline of God” Part 2

Hebrews 12:3-11

Sunday 11/22/2009

→ **Introduction...** The book of Hebrews was written to people who were in the midst of real-time trials and tribulation. They were growing very tired and weary of the struggle with those who were trying to terrorize them into denouncing their faith in Jesus as their Messiah. What can we learn from this passage to help us from becoming weary in our trials?

→ **Open it...**

1. When you were a child, how were you disciplined? How did you feel about it at the time and now when you look back?

2. If you have children, how do or did you discipline them? If you don't have children, how do you think you would discipline them?

→ **Explore it... Read Hebrews 12:3-11**

1. Pastor Steve asked, “Why does God painfully discipline us?” He provided two answers.
 - a) God's love demands it.
 - i. Why does His love demand it? (Lam 3:32-33, Pr 13:24)

 - ii. What other parts of our relationship with God is based on His love?
 - b) Our sonship requires it. (Heb 12:6-8)
 - i. What does this mean regarding our faith?

 - ii. What attitude does this require in the face of suffering? (Acts 5:40-42)

2. Pastor Steve also asked, “What is the higher purpose of God's painful discipline?” He provided four answers.
 - a) Conviction of Sin (Heb 12:5) - List some of the positive effects of discipline when we have sinned.

b) Abundant Life (Heb 12:9) – How does discipline give us an abundant life? (Phil 4:12-13)

c) Sanctification or Righteousness (Heb 12:9-11) – How does discipline produce holiness and righteousness in our lives?

d) Lasting Peace (Heb 12:10) – How can discipline result in lasting peace? (Job 42:1-3)

3. Pastor Steve also asked, “How should we respond to God’s loving discipline?” He provided three answers.

a) Don’t blow it off or make light of it. (Heb 12:5, Proverbs 1:20-33, Isaiah 45:9)

i. What are some ways that we can make light of God’s discipline?

ii. What are the consequences of doing this?

b) Don’t lose heart. (Heb 12:5, Psalm 34:19, Hab 3:17-19, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18) What can you do to keep from losing heart?

c) Submit (Heb 12:9, Luke 6:46, Romans 8:5-7, James 4:7) What does it mean to submit to God?

➔ **Apply it...** As you think back on this passage – answer these questions personally with I, me and my...

1. What is God teaching you in your current trials?

2. What do you want to remember the next time God disciplines you?

3. What can you do today to prevent God’s discipline in the future?

➔ **Pray it...**

Ask God to identify the things that He is trying to teach you in your trials. Pray that you can welcome them so that you can have a harvest of righteousness and peace in your life.