

Hardship Is Discipline

6-15-25

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as HIS children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?

This verse on God's discipline could be studied as a stand-alone verse. However, when taken in context with our study of Hebrews, we see God's deeper motive on the subject. The first 10 chapters of Hebrew taught us the in-depth theology of Jesus Christ. Then Chapter 11 encourages us to live by faith giving us many examples. In Chapter 12 we were challenged to make decisions based on our faith. Now we learn that God is going to be personally involved in our discipline or training. Note: Discipline is not punishment; Discipline is training. Through discipline, God teaches us, so we will grow in the likeness of Jesus.

Isaiah 48:17 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, **who teaches you what is best for you**, who directs you in the way you should go.

Discipline: God is actively teaching us “what is best” for us so that HE can direct us in the way we should go. God uses hardships, struggles, and suffering to discipline us and train us. Therefore, “We endure hardship as discipline!” When we recognize that God is at work through hardships, we are motivated to persevere in times of trouble. Hardships are evidence that God loves us.

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NIV)

⁵Have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? The Scripture says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when HE rebukes you, ⁶because the Lord disciplines the one HE loves, and HE chastens everyone HE accepts as HIS son.”

This is a reference to Proverbs 3:11–12. God loves us, and refines us through the heat of difficulties. Refining comes through heat.

Proverbs 17:3 (NIV) NO/OH

The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart (by applying heat.)

God refines us to remove dross in order to produce a pure valuable vessel for HIS use.

Proverbs 25:4 (NIV) NO/OH

Remove the dross from the silver, and a silversmith can produce a vessel.

Story – Man in India refining silver. He turns the fire down when he sees his reflection.

There are not any circumstances beyond God's control that HE can't use. We cannot discount the significance of our sufferings. We shouldn't lose heart in the face of God's discipline. God disciplines people he loves. Don't be perplexed by people that seem to slide through life without any problems. Hebrews 12:8 says, "If people are not disciplined, they are not true sons and daughters, and the Father feels no responsibility to them." Therefore, we are privileged to have God's attention.

Hebrews 12:7 (NIV)

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as HIS children.

God uses hardship to teach us. Hardship shows that God is treating us as sons and daughters. When we understand God is continually teaching us, we look at our situation differently. We persevere, depend on God, and learn HIS lessons. **Even when others encounter difficulties, we know God is at work and we see their circumstances as Holy Ground. Thus we are cautious not to interfere with the Hand of God.** *We know God is drawing them closer so they may experience the power of God. We don't want to mess up what God is doing.* **Hardships are use to teach us holiness.**

Hebrews 12:10 (NIV)

God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may “share” in HIS holiness.

Hardship is God's discipline. Through Hardship God teaches us what is best for us.

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

Salvation is found in no one else, but Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.