

God's Loving Discipline

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Hebrews 12:3-6

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

To endure the Christian life with joy in our struggles in this evil world we must understand what Scripture teaches about God's loving discipline.

1. The Christian life is a struggle against the forces of evil

- Our enemy is sometimes the **evil in the world** which opposes the people of God. Heb^{11:35-37}; Luk^{21:17}; Jn^{15:19}
- Sometimes the enemy is **our own sinful flesh** opposed to the holiness of God. Rom^{7:15}; 1 Pet^{2:11}
- Believers have **responsibility to resist and strive against** sources of evil, even to point of shedding blood^{Mk8:34-35}
- Remember Gospel: Jesus took God's wrath^{Is51:22}; holy in Him
- In your struggle against evil; keep the end in sight^{1Cor15:57}

2. God gave us His Word to enable us to endure the struggle in this world - pastor quotes Prv^{3:11-12}

- Only God's Heirs/Sons can apply and live by Scripture^{Gal3:26}
- We can't live by Scripture if we don't know it or forget it!
- Scripture given for encouragement & correction^{Jn6:68; 2Ti3:16-17}

3. Bible teaches God disciplines all His children in love

- To understand God's discipline properly we must realize: God's discipline is different than God's punishment:
 - Punishment flows from God's Holy wrath against sin
 - Discipline flows from God's Love for His children
 - Punishment: God is Judge; Discipline: God is Father
 - Punishment: sinner pays for his sins
 - Discipline: Christ paid for our sins^{1Pt1:18-19}
 - Punishment: God's demand for justice -no aim to restore
 - Discipline: Justice already satisfied -aim is sanctification
 - Discipline may not remove consequences of sin
 - God will discipline as severely as needed^{1Cor11:29-32}
 - Repentance may temper consequences from God (grace)
- To receive God's discipline properly, do not regard it lightly
 - When we fail to accept God is sovereign over details^{Prv16:33; Mt10:30}
 - When we fail to see God's loving hand - stoic fatalism
 - Job good example: Job 1:21-22
 - Don't live as a 'practical atheist', glorify God in all things^{1Cor10:31}
- To receive God's discipline properly, don't grow weary
 - We claim to be depressed rather than acknowledge God
 - We believe the lie that God has abandoned us
 - Contrast Jacob^{Gen42:36} (acted like unbeliever) and Joseph^{Gen50:20}
 - In trials, look to Jesus, realize God is sanctifying you^{1Pet4:1-2}
- To receive God's discipline properly, remember God's love
 - God's discipline in our lives proves He loves us
 - Parents don't discipline other people's kids
 - God disciplines for our good so we may share in holiness^{Heb12:10}
 - Gospel: Jesus took all God's wrath; We're adopted heirs; discipline is Your Father refining you to be like Jesus!