

The Discipline of God

Text: Hebrews 12:5-11

Main Idea: Finishing the race of faith requires embracing God's discipline so that He can accomplish His perfect work in us!

1. _____ to God's discipline. (v. 5-9, Prov 3:11-12)

- *Negative:* Don't be _____ about it. (5a)
- *Negative:* Don't be _____ by it. (5b)
- *Negative:* Don't be _____ about God's love. (6)
- *Positive:* _____ knowing that God's discipline _____ you are a true child of God. (7-8)
- *Positive:* _____ to God's discipline & _____! (9)

2. _____ for God's discipline: For our _____ & _____. (v. 10, Heb 12:14)

3. _____ of God's discipline: Peace & Righteousness. (v. 11)

- The reality: In the moment God's discipline is _____.
- The requirements: We must not simply experience God's discipline but we must be _____ by it.
 - 1) Check your _____ about God's working in your life.
 - 2) Pray that the Lord would give you _____ about what He is trying to accomplish in your life. (Jam 1:5)
 - 3) Make _____ in your life so that His discipline will benefit you & bring glory to the Lord.
 - 4) Give _____ to God for what He is doing in your life.
 - 5) Have a _____ spirit to God's sovereign purpose in your life.

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Application/Study Questions:

1. What are some ways that God may discipline His children? What is the difference between punishment and discipline?
2. What might be some typical rebellious responses of teenagers toward their parents who discipline them? Is it possible that we could respond to God in this way when He disciplines us? In the quote of Proverbs 3:11-12 (v. 5-6), what does the author of Hebrews warn us **NOT** to do concerning God's discipline? (3 things).
3. The writer of Hebrews encourages his readers to respond positively to God's discipline. What does it mean to 1) **endure** God's discipline (v. 7), and 2) to **submit** to God's discipline (v. 9)? What would this look like practically in your life? (Think about attitudes!)
4. What comfort should God's discipline provide for us (v. 7-8)? Have you ever disciplined someone else's kid? Why not?
5. Unlike earthly parents whose discipline is not always perfect & sometimes administered with wrong motives, how is God's discipline administered? What reasons does the writer of Hebrews give us for God's discipline in our lives (v. 10)? Why is holiness important (see Heb 12:14)?
6. A rebellious heart **refuses discipline** because it doesn't want to conform to God's purposes. Rather a submissive heart yields and breaks under God's discipline. How have you seen this played out in your own life in the past? How could you change your heart for the future? If you have read through these study questions & appreciate them every week, email me at tim@aplaceforyou.org so I can assess their worth/impact. Thx.
7. How real is the author's view of discipline in v. 11a? What does God promise to produce in His children through His discipline (v. 11b – 2 things)? What is the significance of having "**been trained**" by God's discipline? What is necessary on our part for this training to actually take root in our lives? (Think of a teenager who is disciplined continually but is only negatively affected rather than allowing it to change him/her. What must we do to prevent ourselves from only **experiencing** the discipline rather than being **trained** by it?)

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