

Hebrews 11:13-16 These [Old Testament Saints] all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them...And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. **v13-16,39-40**

Hebrews 12:1-29 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **v1-2**

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." **v3-6**

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate & not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, & we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits & live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. **v7-11**

Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. **v12-17**

For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") **v18-21**

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. **v22-24**

See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.. **v25-27**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. **v28-29**

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Heb 12:4-5 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons (children):

1. **What had the Hebrews forgotten?**
2. **What does the word exhortation mean?**

EXHORTATION:

1. **Emboldening** another in **belief or course of action**; encouragement.
2. Act of **consoling in trouble**; comfort; consolation.
3. An **encouraging word** and/or appeal.

3. **The exhortation speaks to the Hebrews as to _____?**
4. **Do you believe this exhortation is also to us? Why? 2Tim 3:16-17**

2 Timothy 3:15-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

THE EXHORTATION:

Pro 3:11-12 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord corrects him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

1. Do not despise the Lord's _____.
2. Do not be weary of the Lord's _____.
3. The Lord _____ him whom He _____.

Heb 12:6 "My son, do not despise the discipline of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He discipline [corrects], And scourges every son whom He receives."

DISCIPLINE: Correction; chastisement; punishment intended to correct crimes or errors.

REBUKE: To chasten; to punish; to afflict for correction.

CORRECT: To bring back or attempt to bring back to a proper state in respect to morals; to chastise; to correct.

SCOURGE: To punish with severity; to chastise; to afflict for sins or faults, and with the purpose of correction.

Heb 12:6 My son, do not despise the correction of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are corrected by Him; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, And scourges every son whom He receives.

5. God's children do not despise the correction of the Lord. True or False?
6. God's children are not discouraged when corrected by the Lord. True or False?
7. The Lord corrects those He loves. True or False?
8. The Lord scourges every son He receives. True or False?
9. Does the Lord always have to scourge His children (sin)? Why?

1Cor 11:31. "But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged."

10. Who are the true children of God [those He receives]?

John 1:11-13 ...as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Rom 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1John 3:9-11 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. For **this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another,**

11. If you are God's child you will be disciplined by Him. True or False?

12. If you are disciplined by God, you are loved by God. True or False?

13. Who does God love like He loves Jesus?

Luke 3:22 "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

John 5:20 "For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He Himself is doing."

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments & keeps them, it is he who loves Me. & he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, & I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

14. Based on Scripture who loves Jesus?

15. Those who love Jesus are loved by Whom?

1Jn 3:1-3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

16. What manner of love has God bestowed upon us?

John 17:22-26 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, & You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, & that the world may know that You have sent Me, & have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 15:9-10 As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

17. Do you believe the love God has for Jesus is the same love He has for his other children? If different, verse?

Hebrews 12:5-6 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the discipline of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And scourges every son whom He receives."

18. My son (daughter), do not _____ the discipline of the Lord?

19. What does despise mean?

DESPISE: To regard as worthless or beneath consideration. *It carries the idea of looking down on something, dismissing it entirely.*

20. Why would someone regard God's discipline as worthless / beneath them?

21. Evidence someone regards God's discipline as worthless? Not?

22. My son (daughter), do not be _____ when you are rebuked?

23. What does it mean to be discouraged? Rebuked?

DISCOURAGE: To take heart out of someone. To drain the will, create hesitation, make someone want to quit.

REBUKE: A sharp, direct correction. To reprimand with authority. *Stronger than a suggestion, more targeted than general discipline.*

24. Can people discourage us? How? Good thing? Is it possible to twist it?

25. Can we discourage ourselves? How? Good thing? Is it possible to twist it?

26. When is a rebuke necessary? Why not a mere suggestion?

Correction of Sin. When someone is clearly in the wrong and needs to be stopped.

Luke 17:3 If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

2Tim 4:2 ...Convince, rebuke, exhort... **Leviticus 19:17** Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt.

27. Is rebuking people an accepted doctrine today? Why?

28. Is rebuking people an accepted doctrine of God? Why?

29. What does it mean to be encouraged?

ENCOURAGE: To put courage into someone. To strengthen their resolve, confidence, or will to continue. Literally to put heart into someone.

COURAGE: The willingness to act rightly in the face of fear, pain, or opposition. To be strong, to strengthen, to hold firm.

30. Can people encourage us? How? Bad thing? Is it possible to twist it?

31. Can we encourage ourselves? How? Bad thing? Is it possible to become twisted?

32. Should you be encouraged if God disciplines you? Why?

Hebrews 12:5-6 ...For whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And scourges every son whom He receives."

33. Whom the Lord loves He _____?

34. The Lord _____ every son/daughter whom He receives?

35. What does it mean God receives them (son/daughter)?

RECEIVE: Greek paralambanō — para = alongside + lambanō = to take, to accept.

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

36. Does discipline [love] mean punishment [fear]?

DISCIPLINE: (Hebrew musar, Greek paideia) — means training, instruction, correction aimed at formation.

PUNISHMENT: (Retribution) The penalty for wrongdoing, satisfying justice. Settling a debt.

Pro 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. **Pro 15:10** Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die [punishment].

37. Why is there regular discipline and harsh discipline? Why necessary?

38. Why is there regular punishment and eternal punishment? Purpose?

39. Has God removed from us regular punishment? How do we know?

2 Samuel 6:6-7 ...Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God & took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

40. Can regular punishment be a help in the discipline process?

41. Has God removed eternal punishment from us? Who are the us?

1Th 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

42. What punishment did our sin deserve? What did we get instead?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Psalm 103:9-11** He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not...punished us according to our sins. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;

43. In the end, who receives God's great mercy?

44. Are discipline and being a disciple related to each other? Do you know how?

DISCIPLINE / DISCIPLE:

Both come from the Latin word *discipulus* — meaning "learner" or "pupil" — which comes from *discere*, "to learn."

Disciple [Person]: A (*student, pupil, learner, or follower*) who learns from a teacher.

Discipline [Method]: Instruction and training, or a branch of knowledge.

45. What should happen once a disciple is skilled in the discipline they have received?

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came..., saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,..., teaching them to observe [do] all things that I have commanded you;...

46. What if the disciple is not skilled in the discipline they have received? Answer?

Hebrews 5:12-14 ...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. **James 1:22-24** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, & immediately forgets what kind of man he was.