

Now That We Have This New Nature, What Are We to Do with It? – Part 3

(Walking Out This Newness of Life – Submitting to the teaching, correction, and discipline of the Lord)

1. Brief recap from last meeting; we discussed...

- We focused on humility. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- We covered **2 Pet. 1:5-9** where we are told to add seven specific qualities, virtues, or “elements of holiness” to our faith.
- We also discussed **Gal. 5:22-23**, how the Holy Spirit produces fruit in us that is similar to the seven specific qualities, virtues or elements of holiness that we are to add to our faith and how **Heb. 4:10-11** tells us that we are to make every effort to enter into His rest. These seem paradoxical and contrary to one another but when studied in full context, they complement each other. We are to make every effort to allow the Holy Spirit to produce good fruit in our lives which will help us add to our faith the seven specific qualities, virtues, or “elements of holiness” mentioned in **2 Pet. 1:5-9**, this requires humility. It required submitting to the Lord and allowing Him to work in and through your life. Relying on Him and not on self.

2. Submit to the teaching, correction, and discipline of the Lord.

- a) This is a 3rd part of a 3-part study. In the first part we discussed the fact that at salvation (when we believed) we were sanctified and at the same are being sanctified: the process of sanctification. This study is touching on that process. Believers are not promised that this will be a smooth process.
- b) Before we dive into breaking down **Heb. 12:1-14** we need to briefly talk about Heb. Chapter 11 for fuller context. Heb. 11 is all about faith: What faith is, examples of faith, what they were able to do because of faith, etc... But in the end of Heb. 11, specifically Heb. 11:36-40, the chapter speaks of all the persecution they endured because of their faith. They were chained in prison, whipped, and tortured. Some killed by stoning, some sawed in half and others killed with the sword. Some were hiding in caves and holes in the ground. They suffered much persecution because of their faith. Reading all of Heb. Chapter 11 before diving into **Heb. 12** helps you get a better understanding of **Heb. 12**.
- c) We can see in **Heb. 11:1-4** that the writer is encouraging those who have been persecuted to press on and persevere. To not give up and keep the faith. But then he goes onto say there are still going to be trials.
- d) Let's start with reading through all of **Heb. 12:1-14 (AMPC)** and then back up and go through this in more detail.
- e) Now let's back up and read through **Heb. 12:5-11 (NASB 1995, AMPC)**. We also need to keep in mind that **Heb. 12:5-6** is quoting **Prov. 3:11**, so even though **Heb. 3:11** is NT, it is still referencing an OT scripture. This is important because the idea of punishment was in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament Christ took all our punishment for sin upon Himself.

We must see this **Prov. 3:11** reference as the Father teaching and training His son out of love. (* *Read Heb. 12:5-7 commentary below*).

- f) Now let's continue in Hebrews and move onto **Heb. 12:12-14 (NASB/AMPC)** This is a passage of scripture that must be chewed on for a while to get it. Let's dig into this and discuss it. (* *Read Heb. 12:13 commentary below*).
- g) I want to focus on **Heb. 12:5 AMPC** - "...My son, do not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reproved or corrected by Him".

Quick word study on "Chasten":

- h) **Prov. 3:11** "Chastening, Chasten"

Strong's OT Hebrew 4148. מָסָר - musar (moo-sawr')

Definition: **discipline, chastening, correction**.

Musar word origin - Strong's OT Hebrew 3256. Yasar: to **discipline, chasten, admonish**.

- i) **Heb. 12:6; Rev. 19** "Chasteneth, Chasten" – This is a different word when in the NT.

Strong's NT Greek - 3811 παιδεύω - paideuó (pahee-dyoo'-o)

Definition: **to train children, to chasten, correct** - A child under development with strict training. To train up a child, so they mature and realize their full potential (development).

- o) So does God allow persecution, testing, trials, sickness, pain, sorrow, trouble, etc... for the purposes of **training, discipline, chastening, correction, and admonishing**? Discuss... I don't believe God makes people sick or creates the trials to teach us a lesson, however I do see that He allows trials and uses them in our lives of which we can learn from.

- j) One commentary has this to say about the chastening of the Lord:

"Often, people ask if God is "punishing" them for wrong choices in the past. All our punishment for sin was exhausted upon Jesus on the cross (Romans 5:9). The wrath of God was poured out on Him so that for those who are "in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1) no wrath [or punishment] remains. When we give our lives to Christ, our Substitute for sin [our propitiation], our sin is forgiven and God remembers it no more (Hebrews 8:12; 10:15-18). However, often, our wrong choices in the past have brought about unpleasant consequences now. God does not necessarily remove the "natural consequences" of sin when we repent. Those consequences are tools God can use to teach us, to prevent us from repeating the same mistakes, and to remind us of God's grace." i.e. God can use trials that we go through to teach us. Hopefully after we go through a trial, we come out the other side gaining humility, wisdom, insight, and maturity and run towards Him instead of running away from Him.

- o) In the story of Job God did not directly afflict Job, He allowed Satan to. It's important to note that Satan had to ask God for permission to afflict Job. I always had a hard time with Job. God could have protected Job, but instead allowed Satan to afflict. Why did God allow so much affliction on Job, was it just to make a point to Satan? The book of Job gives us no real answers regarding the why. (**Read Job 13:1-19 commentary*)

- One reference in Job that sticks out is having to do with trust. **Job 13:15 (KJV)**
"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." I can relate to this: I trust you Lord, but I am still going to plead my case with you.

3. We have a loving Father who wants the best for us and at the same time an enemy who wants to devour, steal, kill and destroy us.

- a) We do have an enemy who walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. His focus is to steal, kill, and destroy us! The devil is a liar and the father of lies and half-truths. His tools are deception and trickery. Let's read about our enemy: **Jn. 8:43-45, 10:10; Lk. 22:31; 1 Pet. 5:8 (AMPC)**. Note that in **Lk. 22:31** Jesus said, "Satan has asked to sift you all like wheat." Again, we have Satan asking the Lord to afflict the believers instead of just doing the affliction on his own without asking, he needs permission. I bring this up because it is relative to God "allowing" trials.
- b) We have a loving Father who wants to train and discipline us through chastening, correction and admonishing because He wants the best for us and wants us to be conformed into the image of His Son. At the same time, we have an enemy the devil who wants to steal, kill, destroy, and devour us through deceptions and trickery because he is a liar and a murderer and there is no truth in him.
 - **Jam. 4:7 (AMP)** ties into this concept: "*So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you.*" **Submit to God and resist the devil.** Surrender and submit to one and resist the other.
 - *** The submitting helps us do the resisting. ***
- c) **How do we know what is from the Lord and what is from the enemy?** Does God sometimes allow trials for the purposes of **training, discipline, chastening, correction, admonishing** to help us conform to the image of His Son? Yes.
- d) There is also a testing of our faith noted in **Jam. 1:2-4** and **1 Peter 1:6-7 (AMPC/ESV)**.
- e) Let's go back to **Prov. 3:11-18 (NKJV/NASB)** and read it in full context – Here we see the benefit of being teachable is finding wisdom. This should remind us to "not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord" as we read in **Heb. 12:5**.
 (*Read **Prov. 3:11-14** commentary)
- f) We can also see how **Prov. 9:10** ties into this regarding wisdom. "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*". – We should have a healthy fear (reverence and awe of the Lord) and allow Him to teach you.
- g) Now let's dive into **Rev. 3:19**, which is still using the language of OT **Prov. 3:11**. Let's read this in full context: **Rev. 3:15-22 (NKJV/NLT) - vs. 21**. This passage talks about Jesus rebuking and chastening those whom He loves and also talks about being either hot or cold; with a warning about being lukewarm. Be all-in or not! You cannot be both; with one foot in the world and one in the Kingdom. Jesus says He will spit the lukewarm out of His mouth.
- h) **Vs. 3:19 (NLT)** really jumped out and slapped me in the face! "*I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference*". Wow, pay attention; this is sobering!

Indifference – “absence of compulsion to or toward one thing or another; a lack of concern or uncaring attitude; having or showing a lack of interest or concern.”

- i) God’s ultimate purpose in the disciplines of life is that we become partakers of His holiness **Heb. 12:10 (AMPC)**, and partakers of His divine nature. **2 Ptr. 1:2-4 (NKJV)**
- j) We also need to remember that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.
Mat. 11:28-30 (NKJV) “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- k) As we learn to yield and submit to the authority of the Lord, humbly allow Him to do His work in and through us and yield to His **training, discipline, chastening, correction, and admonishing**, we will find rest for our souls. We will be able to successfully “take” His yoke upon us which is easy and light. The result will be abundant life and sustaining joy.

In this study we dove into surrendering and submitting to the discipline of the Lord and touched on resisting the devil. We did not get to finish this study so in our next meeting we will pick up where we left off and will then dive into having spiritual discernment so as to not be deceived in a time when deception is all around us and powered by technology and resisting the devil by being **Sober-minded, watchful, alert, vigilant and self-disciplined, standing firm in our faith and to continue in the faith**. And by submitting to His authority which we spoke of in this study. We are also going to touch on repentance.

I did not add any homework here because this entire study is your homework. 😊

Heb. 12:5-7 Believer's Bible Commentary:

12:5 The Christian view of suffering is now presented. Why do persecution, testing, trials, sickness, pain, sorrow, and trouble come into the life of the believer? Are they a sign of God's anger or displeasure? Do they happen by chance? How should we react to them?

These verses teach that these things are part of God's educative process for His children. Although they do not come from God, He permits them, then overrules them for His glory, for our good, and for the blessing of others.

Nothing happens by chance to the Christian. Tragedies are blessings in disguise, and disappointments are His appointments. God harnesses the adverse circumstances of life to conform us to the image of Christ.

So the early Hebrew believers were exhorted to remember [Proverbs 3:11, 12](#), where God addresses them as **sons**. There He warns them against despising His discipline or losing courage under His rebuke. If they rebel or give up, they lose the benefit of His dealings with them and fail to learn His lessons.

12:6 When we read the word *chastening*, or *chastisement*, we tend to think of a whipping. But here the word means child training or education. It includes instruction, discipline, correction, and warning. All are designed to cultivate Christian virtues and drive out evil. In this passage, the chastening was not punishment for wrongdoing, but training through persecution.

The passage in Proverbs distinctly states that God's discipline is a proof of His love, and no **son** of His escapes chastisement.

12:7 By remaining submissive to the **chastening of God**, we permit His discipline to mold us into His image.

Heb. 12:13 Believer's Bible Commentary:

12:13 Faltering feet should be guided in **straight paths** of Christian discipleship.

All who follow the Lord fully smooth the path of faith for feeble brethren; but those who do not follow fully, roughen the path for others' feet and create spiritual cripples.

G. H. Lang gives a fine illustration:

A weary traveler, tired of the road and the buffeting of the tempest, stands dispirited and limp. With shoulders bowed, hands hanging slack, knees bent and shaking, he is ready to give up and sink to the ground. Such can God's pilgrim become, as pictured by our writer.

But one comes to him confident of mien (look or manner), with kindly smile and firm voice, and says, "Cheer up, stand erect, brace your limbs, take heart of grace. You have already come far; throw not away your former toils. A noble home is at the end of the journey. See, yonder is the direct road to it; keep straight on; seek from the great Physician healing for your lameness.... Your

Forerunner went this same hard road to the palace of God; others before you have won through; others are on the way; you are not alone; only press on! and you too shall reach the goal and win the prize."

Job 13:1-19 Believer's Bible Commentary:

13:1-19 Job scolds his critics. They have not said anything new. He wants to plead his case with God, not with these forgers of lies and worthless physicians. If they kept silent, people would think they were wise. Their explanation of God's action was not true; they would be accountable to Him for it. Their arguments were weak and useless. If they would just be quiet, he would plead his case ... before God and commit his life to Him. He is confident he will be vindicated, but even if God were to slay him, he will still trust the Lord.

Prov. 3:11-12 Believer's Bible Commentary:

3:11, 12 We can also acknowledge the Lord by submitting to His discipline. Too often we tend to think of discipline as meaning punishment, but it actually includes all that is involved in the proper training of a child, i.e., instruction, warning, encouragement, advice, **correction**, and **chastening**. Everything that God allows to come into our lives is purposeful. We should not **detest** it or **despise** it. Neither should we shrink from it or give up under it. Rather we should be concerned that God's purpose is achieved through the discipline, and thus we reap the maximum profit from it. God's ultimate purpose in the disciplines of life is that we become partakers of His holiness.

Discipline is a proof of love, not anger. **Correction** is a proof of sonship (see Heb. 12:6-8).

For an even further deep dive, I recommend digging through all of the commentary for Heb. 12:6-7 on Bible Hub:

[Heb. 12:5 Commentaries on Bible Hub](#)

[Heb. 12:6 Commentaries on Bible Hub](#)

[Heb. 12:7 Commentaries on Bible Hub](#)

Bible Hub covers the following commentaries:

Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

Pulpit Commentary

Calvin's Commentaries (specifically John Calvin's commentary on the verse)

Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible (John Gill)

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

Matthew Poole's Commentary

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

Bengel's *Gnomen* (Johann Albrecht Bengel)

Expositor's Greek Testament

Meyer's NT Commentary (Heinrich August Wilhelm Meyer)

Barnes' Notes on the Bible (Albert Barnes)

Vincent's Word Studies (Marvin Vincent)