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**Do Not Despise the Chastening of the Lord –  
How God Uses Bad for Our Good  
Hebrews 12:5-11**

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Why do we go through hard times? Sometimes when we do what is right, God gives us trouble. Why does this happen? God loves us and cares for us. God desires that we grow. As our Heavenly Father, God uses hard times to accomplish this. The Bible calls this “chastening.”

Chasten - παιδεία, paideia - \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

I. Chastening proves our \_\_\_\_\_.

A. God is speaking to us as \_\_\_\_\_.

(Proverbs 3:11-14; 1 Peter 3:14-17) If we are going through hard times, or troubles, it is because we a God’s child. If we never go through troubles, we should examine where we stand before God.

B. God \_\_\_\_\_ every son whom he receives

God has promised that, as His children, we will go through chastening. It is a guarantee. There are times where we may be chastened for doing wrong, but there will be times when God chastens us just because we are His children. (2 Samuel 7:14-15)

II. Chastening shows God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for us

A. The Lord \_\_\_\_\_ who he chastens

God’s motivation for chastening us is because He does love us.  
(Revelation 3:14-19)

B. \_\_\_\_\_ fathers chasten their sons

(Deuteronomy 8:5)

1. It is not \_\_\_\_\_ to not chasten

A father should be chastening his children. This is part of his duty. Our goal as fathers ought to be to raise young men and women who love God and obey Him. This cannot be done without chastening. (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)

2. We \_\_\_\_\_ fathers who discipline

(Proverbs 29:17)

3. Earthly fathers chasten because it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Most fathers discipline their children because they love them and they want their children to learn to obey, to do what is right. We don’t always do that perfectly but our goal is to help our children be better people. (Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14)

III. Chastening is not \_\_\_\_\_.

A. It is something to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Endure - ὑπομένω, upomenō - endure, hold out, stand firm; *meno* means to abide or remain, *upomeno* therefore is to abide under or remain under.

We should remain under God's chastening. There is a purpose to it.

B. It forces us to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

If we can learn to endure chastening from God, it helps us to subject ourselves to Him in every area of our lives. We can more readily trust Him and obey Him in other areas.

C. It is not \_\_\_\_\_, it is \_\_\_\_\_.

Obviously, hard times are not enjoyable. Nobody expects that you will be jubilant when you go through hard times. But notice that the author of Hebrews uses the phrase "for the present." The hard times will not last forever. There is an end to them.

IV. Chastening produces \_\_\_\_\_.

**James 1:2-4**

A. It gives \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the first benefits of chastening is that it produces life in us. There are both physical and spiritual benefits to accepting the chastening of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 11:32; Proverbs 15:10)

B. It is for our \_\_\_\_\_.

Chastening is profitable to us. We cannot grow without hard times in our lives. One of the ways that it profits us is that we gain God's holiness in our lives. As we endure God's chastening, we learn to obey Him and walk in His ways. Chastening shows us that God is trying to purify us. (Proverbs 19:18; Jeremiah 2:30; Job 5:17-20)

C. It yields \_\_\_\_\_.

God's chastening produces righteousness in our lives. Some of the strongest Christians I know are those who God has put through hard times. They have learned to trust in Him and obey Him. As we are chastened, we can look forward to God growing us. (Psalm 118:18-19)

Applications:

- Trust God in hard times. He is growing you.
- Encourage others who are going through difficulty, that God is growing them also.
- Fathers – use God's example of chastening to discipline your children.
- Children – When your parents discipline, they are doing it for your good. Learn from their correction with a good, God-honoring attitude.