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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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**Hebrews 12:5-11** <sup>5</sup> 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; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." <sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

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 - discipline; instruction, training

παιδεύω ; παιδεία, ας *f*: to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior - 'to teach, to instruct, to train, teaching, instruction. (Loew-Nida)

παιδεία, ας, ἡ (1) active, of rearing and guiding a child toward maturity *training, instruction, discipline* (HE 12.11); as including Christian discipline and instruction (EP 6.4); as God's fatherly discipline of all believers *discipline, punishment, correction* (HE 12.5); (2) passive, of the result of such discipline *training, improved behavior* (HE 12.7)  
(Friberg)

παιδεία, ἡ, *the rearing of a child*, Aesch.

2. *training and teaching, education*, Ar., Thuc., etc.

3. its result, *culture, learning, accomplishments*, Plat.

4. πλεκτὰ Αἰγύπτου παιδεία the twisted *handiwork* of Egypt, i.e. *ropes of byblus*, Eur. II. *youth, childhood*, Theogn., Eur. (Liddell-Scott)

παιδεία (Tdf. παιδία; (see Iota)), παιδείας, ἡ, (παιδεύω), the Septuagint for מִוְסָר;

1. *the whole training and education of children* (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment): Eph. 6:4 (cf. Winer's Grammar, 388 (363) note); (in Greek writings from Aeschylus on, it includes also the care and training of the body.) (See especially Trench, Synonyms, sec. xxxii.; cf. Jowett's Plato, index under the word Education).

2. "whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing the passions "; hence, a. *instruction which aims at the increase of virtue*: 2 Tim. 3:16. b. according to Biblical usage *chastisement, chastening* (of the evils with which God visits men for their amendment): Heb. 12:5 (Prov. 3:11), 7f (see ὑπομένω, 2 b.), 11; (Prov. 15:5, and often in the O. T.; cf. Grimm, Exgt. Hdbch. on Sap., p. 51; (cf. (Plato)

definition παιδεία. δύναμις θεραπευτικη (Thayer)

*paideuō* primarily denotes "to train children," suggesting the broad idea of education, here of a training gracious and firm; grace, which brings salvation, employs means to give us full possession of it; hence, "to chastise," this being part of the training, whether (a) by correcting with words, reproof, and admonishing

(b) by “chastening” by the infliction of evils and calamities... The verb also has the meaning “to chastise with blows, to scourge...”

*padiea* denotes “the training of a child, including instruction”; hence “discipline, correction,” “chastening,” suggesting the Christian discipline that regulates character; (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words)

## I. Chastening proves our sonship

### A. God is speaking to us as sons

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:  
"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD..."

**Proverbs 3:11-14** <sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the **chastening** of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; <sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son *in whom* he delights. <sup>13</sup> Happy *is* the man *who* finds wisdom, And the man *who* gains understanding; <sup>14</sup> For her proceeds *are* better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.

(Modern evangelical prosperity gospel – If you do right, God will bless you and give you all good things and an easy life).

**1 Peter 3:14-17** <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, *you are* blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." <sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; <sup>16</sup> having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. <sup>17</sup> For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

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 scourges every son whom he receives

6...And scourges every son whom He receives."

<sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons...

Scourges - **μαστιγώνω** beat with a whip; discipline, punish

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** <sup>14</sup> "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will **chasten** him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup> "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

## II. Chastening shows God’s love for us

### A. The Lord loves who he chastens

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens,

God's motivation for chastening us is because He does love us.

**Revelation 3:14-19** <sup>14</sup> " And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ' These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: <sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' -- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked -- <sup>18</sup> "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. <sup>19</sup> "As many as I love, I rebuke and **chasten**. Therefore be zealous and repent.

#### B. Earthly fathers chasten their sons

**Deuteronomy 8:5** <sup>5</sup> "You should know in your heart that as a man **chastens** his son, *so* the LORD your God **chastens** you.

##### 1. It is not normal to not chasten

7 ...for what son is there whom a father does 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** <sup>18</sup> " If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and *who*, when they have **chastened** him, will not heed them, <sup>19</sup> "then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. <sup>20</sup> "And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' <sup>21</sup> "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

##### 2. We respect fathers who discipline

<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect.

**Proverbs 29:17** <sup>17</sup> **Correct** your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

(Going out to eat and being complimented on how well our children behave).

##### 3. Earthly fathers chasten because it is best

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them,

Most fathers (I hope) 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** <sup>24</sup> He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

**Proverbs 22:15** <sup>15</sup> Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

**Proverbs 23:13-14** <sup>13</sup> Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup> You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

### III. Chastening is not easy

#### A. It is something to be endured

<sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons;

Endure - ὑπομένω, upomenō - endure, hold out, stand firm; bear, put up with, undergo; remain, stay behind.

*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 subject to God

<sup>9</sup> Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

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 joyful, it is painful.

<sup>11</sup> Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful;

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 results

**James 1:2-4** <sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

#### A. It gives life

<sup>9</sup> Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

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** <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are **chastened** by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

**Proverbs 15:10** <sup>10</sup> Harsh **discipline** is for him who forsakes the way, *And* he who hates correction will die.

#### B. It is for our profit

10 but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

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** <sup>18</sup> **Chasten** your son while there is hope, *And* do not set your heart on his destruction.

**Jeremiah 2:30** <sup>30</sup> "In vain I have **chastened** your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion.

**Job 5:17-20** <sup>17</sup> " Behold, happy *is* the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the **chastening** of the Almighty. <sup>18</sup> For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole. <sup>19</sup> He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you. <sup>20</sup> In famine He shall redeem you from death, *And* in war from the power of the sword.

#### C. It yields righteousness

11 nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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.

**Psalms 118:18-19** <sup>18</sup> The LORD has **chastened** me severely, But He has not given me over to death. <sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, *And* I will praise the LORD.

#### 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.