

Hebrews 12: 4-11

I. REASONS FOR GOD'S DISCIPLINE.

- A. God Disciplines Us to Punish Us. Psalm 89:30-32
- B. God Disciplines Us to Protect Us. 2 Corinthians 12:7
- C. God Disciplines Us to Purify Us. Hebrews 12:10

II. REACTION TO GOD'S DISCIPLINE. Hebrews 12:5

- A. We Can Be Indifferent to God's Discipline.
- B. We Can Be Intimidated by God's Discipline.
- C. We Can Be Ignorant about God's Discipline.
- D. We Can Be Instructed by God's Discipline.

III. REALITY OF GOD'S DISCIPLINE. Hebrews 12:6-8

- A. The Presence of God's Discipline Proves That We Are His Sons.
- B. The Absence of God's Discipline Proves That We Are Not His Sons.

IV. RATIONALE FOR GOD'S DISCIPLINE. Hebrews 12:9-10

- A. Our Human Fathers Disciplined Us as It Seemed Best to Them -- Our Heavenly Father Disciplines Us as It Is Best For Us.
- B. Our Human Fathers Disciplined Us for Earthly Reasons -- Our Heavenly Father Disciplines Us for Heavenly Reasons.

V. RESULTS OF GOD'S DISCIPLINE. Hebrews 12:10-11

- A. He Wants Us to Receive Holiness.
- B. He Wants Us to Reflect Righteousness.
- C. He Wants Us to Radiate Peace.

Difficulties in the Christian's life should be embraced for what they are: Evidence that you are God's child.

***In this message we discover
how and why God uses hardship in the Christian life of faith.***

The writer reminded the Hebrews of two important facts that they were prone to overlook:

- First, they were not to overestimate the severity of their trials. Hebrews 12:4
- Second, they were not to forget that the Lord uses painful experiences as part of His process of nurturing His children. Hebrews 12:5-11

If the readers focused on the process of chastening, they would find little to give them joy. If, however, they considered the eventual product of God's discipline, they could be encouraged (Heb. 12:11). Those who accept afflictions as God's intended them will mature in righteousness. God uses the rigors of His discipline to equip His children to run with endurance the race of life. Pressures can build us up if we accept them as from our loving Father.

The natural tendency in life is to avoid experiences of pain and discomfort. Who would choose pain over comfort? The Christian has every reason to since God uses discomfort in life as a means of training for His children. In fact discomfort is proof that God loves us as His own.