

How Grace Disciplines Us- Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 12:4ff.

II. The facts about God's discipline through adversity

A. All hardship is a part of God's discipline in our lives.

B. God's discipline is always out of love. (Hebrews 12:6)

C. Discipline is a mark of sonship. (Hebrews 12:8)

D. God disciplines us for our good. (Hebrews 12:10)

E. God disciplines us so we can share in his holiness. (Hebrews 12:10; Romans 8:28-29)

III. The commands God gives through discipline- how we should respond to God's discipline.

A. Do not make light of God's discipline.

1. Do not fail to see his sovereignty in our discipline. (Hebrews 12:5; Lamentations 3:37-38; Isaiah 45:7; Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; Genesis 50:20)

B. Do not lose heart by failing to see God's love in his discipline. (Hebrews 12:5; Ecclesiastes 7:13-14; Hebrews 13:5)

C. Submit to God's discipline. (Hebrews 12:9)

1. Do not let anger at God linger in your heart.

2. We can pray for relief, but always in submission to God's will.

3. Have confidence that he intends to make you more like Christ through this discipline.

IV. Discipline of any sort is painful, but produces maturity in the end. (Hebrews 12:11)

1. There will be a day of rest from the discipline either in this life or the next. (Romans 8:18)

2. Discipline prevents pride in the short-term and shows that God's power is made manifest in human weakness in the long-term. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

3. God's sustaining grace is enough for our individual adversities.

Application questions:

1. Is there anger in your heart toward God for allowing a particular adversity into your life? How can knowing that God only allowed it through his love change your perspective toward that season?

2. How have you seen hardship produce maturity in your life or in the lives of those closest to you?

3. How does this passage challenge you in the hardships you are experiencing right now?
