

*The Letter to the*  
**Hebrews**







# “The Discipline of God”



Hebrews 12:5-11

# A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

He was an author with an amazing insight into the heart of God. One of his books, *The Root of the Righteous*, published towards the end of his life, talks about trials and suffering in this way:



“Praise God for the hammer, the file, and the furnace. The hammer is a useful tool, but the nail, if it had feeling and intelligence, could present another side of the story. For the nail knows the hammer only as an

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opponent, a brutal, merciless enemy who lives to pound it into submission, to beat it down out of sight and clinch it into place. That's the nail's view of the hammer, it is accurate except one thing: The nail forgets that both it and the hammer are servants of the same workman.

Let the nail but remember that the hammer is held by the workman and all resentment toward it





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will disappear. The carpenter decides whose head shall be beaten next and what hammer shall be used in the beating. That is his sovereign right.

The file is more painful still, for its business is to bite into the soft metal, scraping and eating away the edges until it has shaped the metal to its will. But it is the master and not the file that decides how much shall be eaten away, what shape the metal shall take,



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and how long the painful filing shall continue.

As for the furnace, it is the worst of all. Ruthless and savage, it never relaxes its fury till it has reduced it all to shapeless ashes. All that refuses to burn is melted to mass of helpless matter. When everything is melted that will melt and all is burned that will burn, then and not till then the furnace calms down and rests from its destructive fury.”



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After hearing this, the question may arise;  
“How could anyone praise God for the  
Hammer, the file, or the furnaces of life?”



“It is because of love for the Hand that wields  
hammer, works the file, and stokes the furnace— the  
loving Hand of the Heavenly Father.”



“...<sup>5</sup> and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

‘MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,

NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

<sup>6</sup> FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.’

<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without



discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness. <sup>11</sup> All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:5-11, NASB

# A. Do not Despise His Chastening

- Vs 5-6, the Author is quoting Proverbs 3:11-12...





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Hebrews 12:5-6, NASB

# A. Do not Despise His Chastening

- Vs 5-6, the Author is quoting Proverbs 3:11-12...
- Today's liberal society norm teaches that disciplining a child is tantamount to abuse— that if you love them and give them enough room, they'll be fine
- I promise you, this practice will produce monsters in the home
- Look at the Millennials today...





“He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly. When the Lord created humans, He added extra layers of paddings on the child’s bottom so that he or she can take a little hand of correction. The truth of the matter is that children long for boundaries. They give them a sense of security, a feeling that they are watched over and cared for.”

Proverbs 13:24, NIV

“Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You see, the shepherd’s staff is that long, crooked stick he used to pull a wayward sheep back into line. But the rod is a shorter, but thicker stick. And sometimes the shepherd would use the rod to break a sheep’s leg, if that particular sheep continually wanders away from the flock. It may seem too drastic, but it is better to have a broken leg than to become a leg of lamb.”

Psalm 23:4b , NIV



# B. Discipline Assures 'Son-ship'

- Vs 7-8, God created all humanity, but He *is not* the *Father* of all humanity...



“<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

Hebrews 12:7-8, NASB



# B. Discipline Assures 'Son-ship'

- Vs 7-8, God created all humanity, but He *is not* the *Father* of all humanity...

- Two things—

1. If you endure God's chastening, it proves that you are His
2. If you don't receive God's chastening, it doesn't matter what you think about your relationship with God, you *are NOT* His



# C. Discipline Leads Us to His Holiness

- Vs 9-10, If you're like me, you have a hard time relating to your Heavenly Father, because of your Earthly one



“<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?  
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Hebrews 12:9-10, NASB



# C. Discipline Leads Us to His Holiness

- Vs 9-10, If you're like me, you have a hard time relating to your Heavenly Father, because of your Earthly one
- V9 introduces an argument from the lesser to the greater. If we submit to our earthly fathers, how much more should we submit to our Heavenly Father?
- Why do good earthly fathers correct their kids? So that their children may show them respect and obedience.
- For the same reason, our Heavenly Father corrects us



# D. Discipline Yields Righteousness

- Vs 11, My Dad used to say, “This is gonna hurt me more than it does you.”



“<sup>11</sup> All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

Hebrews 12:11, NASB



# D. Discipline Yields Righteousness

- Vs 11, My Dad used to say, “This is gonna hurt me more than it does you.”
- Many times we bring storms on ourselves when we do the wrong thing and then experience the consequences, like Jonah
- Sometimes God allows evil to come our way to “hammer” out ungodly practices, to “file” our character in Jesus-shapes, or “burn” away anything unholy...



# Take Home!

1. God cares more about godly character than comfort
2. God's chastening is proof that we are His Children!
3. Truth from the Bible may hurt you as well as comfort you; but it will NEVER comfort you with lies!

