



## “Divine Discipline” (Hebrews 12:1-11, 2013)

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Intro: Read James 1:2-4; On the one hand, the world and the devil were coming against these believers in an effort to defeat and destroy them. On the other hand, God was looking, as a direct result of the fiery trials they were facing, to strengthen and mature them. In order to make it to maturity and remain mature, the Holy Spirit reminds them of some essentials in getting there and staying there.

v.1 Paul loved comparing the Christian life to a race. See I Cor.9:24-27; Gal.5:7; Phil.3:13-14; II Tim.4:7.

### I. EXHORTATIONS

#### A. Get Rid Of Anything That Hinders

##### 1. Unnecessary Weights

- Greek for weights = 3591. ogkos, ong'-kos; prob. from the same as G43; a mass (as bending or bulging by its load), i.e. burden (hindrance):--weight.

- Luke 8: 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

- Worries (Luke 10:41-42; Riches (I Tim.6:9-10); Pleasures (Busch Gardens, sports, entertainment, love/passion).

- I Cor.7: 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not **engrossed** in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

- engrossed = 2710. katachraomai, kat-akh-rah'-om-ahee; from G2596 and G5530; to overuse, i.e. misuse:--abuse.

##### 2. Sin that entangles

\* Note: The sin that would so easily entangle you may be no real temptation for me, and the sin that would easily entangle me may be no real problem for you (examples: sexual immorality, pornography, anger, greed/materialism, etc.).

\* Matthew 18:8-9

## B. Run With Perseverance

\* Endurance is a quality that every distance runner must develop.

\* Illus: I used to throw up almost every day the first two weeks of track practice, and I felt like quitting every time!

## C. Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

\* Encouraged by the witnesses, but with our eyes on Jesus. The Rambo of the race we run is Jesus!

\* In sports, you have to be focused – baseball and football, keep your eye on the ball; golf, keep your head down; running, etc.

\* One thing a runner is never to do, and that is look back. Refer to Philippians 3:12-14.

\* Luke 9: 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

\* August 7, 1954, during the British Empire Games in Vancouver, Canada, one of the greatest mile-run match-ups ever took place. It was touted as the “miracle mile” because Roger Bannister and John Landy were the only two sub-four-minute milers in the world. Bannister had been the first man ever to run the mile in four minutes. Both runners were in peak condition. Landy had a substantial lead for much of the race. Bannister’s plan was to relax during the third lap and save everything for the finishing drive. But in the third lap Landy poured it on, stretching his already substantial lead. Bannister had to change his strategy and increased his pace. At the bell for the final lap the runners were dead even. At the home stretch the crowd roared. Landy was once again in the lead, but could not hear Bannister’s footfall, so he looked back, and that’s when Bannister made his move. Roger Bannister won the miracle mile that day by fifteen feet.

## II. NEEDED REMINDERS

### A. It Ain’t As Bad As It Could Be (v.4)

### B. Discipline Proves You Are Legitimate (vv.5-8)

### C. Discipline Is For Our Own Good (vv.9-11)

- Share in God’s holiness, harvest of righteousness (doing what is right), harvest of peace (you have survived, matured, and have a peace that passes understanding).
- The Greek word here for discipline means the whole training and education of children, and whatever in adults cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing passions; instruction which aims at increasing virtue; it includes chastisement, and chastening.

- See Prov.13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15

#### D. Without Discipline, We Would Never Mature (James 1:2-3)

\* Even Jesus required discipline to mature.

- Hebrews 2: 10 In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.
- Hebrews 5: 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

\* “God had one Son without sin, but none without suffering.”

\* C.H. Spurgeon said, “I am afraid that all the grace I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows and pains and griefs is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the hammer and the anvil, the fire and the file? Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house.

### III. GOD’S PURPOSES IN DISCIPLINE

#### A. Correction

\* God’s corrective ways (I Cor.11:27-32; Psalm 119:67).

\* The scars on my body.

\* The true child of God cannot get away with anything; Late one night a burglar broke into a house. He froze when he heard a loud voice say, “Jesus is watching!” After looking around seeing nobody, he continued to creep forward. Again out of nowhere the same voice, “Jesus is watching.” The robber stopped dead in his tracks and frantically looked all around. He then spotted the parrot in cage. “Was that you?” asked the burglar. “Yes,” answered the parrot. The criminal sighed in relief and then asked, “What’s your name?” “Clarence,” said the bird. To which the burglar sneered, “That’s a dumb name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?” “To which the parrot replied, “The same idiot that named the Rottweiler Jesus.”

\* God is always watching. The question is, when God confronts us, when he takes us into the spiritual woodshed, how are we going to respond?

\* ***The right response to correction (Psalm 38:1-7; 32:3-5, 9; 51:12).***

\* ***The wrong response to correction (II Chron.16:12-13; 26:16-21a).***

## B. Education

\* Deut.8:

\* Illus: When parents do not give us everything we want, they are trying to teach us that some things will not be good for us. Example, kids in a candy store, etc.

\* God wants us to develop an appetite for spiritual food, because the food of the flesh will not make us spiritually healthy.

## A. Revelation

\* Deut.8:2

\* What was revealed through these tough times? Grumbling and complaining, lack of faith/trust, fleshly appetites...

## B. Maintenance

\* Paul's thorn in the flesh (II Cor.12:7-10).

## CONCLUSION

\* An old Quaker who was a farmer once had a weather-vane on the roof of his barn on which was written in clear letters for everyone to see "God Is Love." One day a preacher came by and this Quaker called the preacher's attention to the weather vane and asked how he liked it. The preacher said he didn't like it at all, that it misrepresented Divine character –God's love is not variable like the wind. But the Quaker explained that the text on the weather vane was to remind him that, no matter which way the wind is blowing, and no matter from which direction the storms may come, still, God Is Love.

\* God's loving discipline is at work in every believer's life. What wind of discipline is blowing in your life right now? Correction, Teaching, Revelation, Maintenance?