

What is the Purpose of God's Discipline? Hebrews 12:5-7

**Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN**

1. The book of Hebrews was written to some Jewish Christians who were undergoing some persecution. Can you imagine the arguments that people close to them used to encourage them to reject Christianity?
2. Our greatest need is not some new revelation from God. Our greatest need is to pay attention to what we've already been told.
3. The key word in this passage is the word "discipline." It comes from a word that means to train a child.

- I. What is the Purpose of Discipline? Hebrews 12:5, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you."
 - A. Not all discipline comes from God.
 - B. Discipline has the purpose of Punishment.
 - C. The purpose of discipline is for Prevention.
 1. "My grace is sufficient for you." 2 Corinthians 12:9
 - D. Some discipline is for Performance.
 1. "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
 2. "It is good for me to be afflicted, so that I might learn your decrees." Psalm 119:71
- II. What Does Discipline Prove? Hebrews 12:6-8, "because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons."
 - A. Discipline proves God loves us.
 1. "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline." Revelation 3:19
 - B. Discipline proves our relationship.
- III. The Result of Discipline. Hebrews 12:9-11, "Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."
 - A. Because God is perfect, His discipline is always perfect.
 - B. In verse 11, the Hebrew writer tells us discipline is not meant to be pleasant.