

“Embrace God’s Discipline”
Navigating Through the Desert Part V
Deuteronomy 8:2-5; Hebrews 12:4-11
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Why should we submit to God’s discipline?

Reason 1: The Lord’s discipline confirms His love for us (Hebrews 12:5, 6).

“Although the Book of Job settles the question of whether man’s suffering is always punishment for evil—it isn’t, since God Himself called Job a blameless man—we must not overlook the punitive aspect of suffering. Sometimes we do need chastisement. Suffering gives us occasion to examine ourselves, adjust our priorities, rest our sights, and confess our sins.”

A Path through Suffering by Elisabeth Elliot,
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Reason 2: It provides meaning and purpose to our suffering (Hebrews 12:7, 8).

Reason 3: It is for our good/holiness (Hebrews 12:9, 10).

“But God insists that in our suffering He is doing us good, a greater good that relieving our suffering. He never stops doing us good (Jeremiah 32:40). The problem is with blessing-based, happiness-centered understanding of goodness. It is too small.”

Shattered Dreams: God’s Unexpected Pathway to Joy by
Larry Crabb, Copyright © 2001 by Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr.,
Ph.D., P.C., p. 180.

“Suffering creates the possibility of growth in holiness, but only to those who, by letting all else go, are open to the training—not by arguing with the Lord about what they did or did not do to deserve punishment, but by praying, ‘Lord, show me what You have for me in this.’”

A Path through Suffering by Elisabeth Elliot,
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Reason 4: It will produce a harvest of righteousness and peace (Hebrews 12:11).

Conclusion: Our response to God’s discipline should not be resentful resignation, but willing and grateful submission (Hebrews 12:9).

“It is important that suffering be accepted in the right spirit; otherwise it does not produce the right result...It is not a matter of accepting a minor chastisement or two with good grace; it is the habit of life that is meant. When that is present, the ‘peaceable fruit’ follows.”

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Volume 12 by Frank E. Gaebelein, Copyright © 1981 by Zondervan Corporation,
p. 138.

“We must also remember that actions have consequences to which, as long as we live on this earth, we cannot be immune. All punishment, all discipline from God is from a loving Father whose sole object is to make us like Himself—holy. So let us receive it humbly, trusting in His love—a far cry from mere grinning and bearing. Of course we do not always know, while in the middle of it, to which category our suffering belongs. Often it is a mixture, but the cross remains our refuge nonetheless.”

A Path through Suffering by Elisabeth Elliot,
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