

## Part 5. The Holy Spirit

### Lesson 3: The Discipline of the Spirit

#### Lesson Summary

God's discipline is not punishment but a loving work of grace, shaping His children into Christ's likeness (Heb. 12:6; Rom. 8:29). Discipline means correction, training, and refining, not rejection (Eph. 1:6; Rom. 8:1). The Spirit disciplines through conviction of sin (John 16:8), the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12), life's trials (Rom. 8:28; Ps. 119:67), consequences (1 Cor. 11:31–32), and godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2 Cor. 7:9–10). God disciplines because He loves us (Rev. 3:19), to train us in righteousness (Heb. 12:11), and to produce endurance, character, and hope (Rom. 5:3–5; James 1:2–4). Our right response is to accept it with humility (James 4:6–10), endure it with faith (1 Pet. 5:6–7), and allow it to bear the fruit of holiness and peace (Gal. 5:22–23). God is the Potter, and we are the clay—His correction is redemptive, always forming Christ in us (Jer. 18:1–6; Isa. 64:8).

#### Key Takeaways

- **Discipline = Love:** God disciplines His children as proof of sonship (Heb. 12:6; Prov. 3:11–12).
- **Purpose:** To conform us to Christ and train us in righteousness (Rom. 8:29; 2 Tim. 3:16–17).
- **Means:** Conviction, Scripture, trials, consequences, and godly sorrow (John 16:8; Ps. 119:67; 2 Cor. 7:9–10).
- **Response:** Don't despise it, but submit with humility and trust (Heb. 12:5; James 4:6–10).
- **Fruit:** Holiness, endurance, peace, and Christlike maturity (Heb. 12:11; Gal. 5:22–23).
- **Image:** The Potter shaping the clay—discipline is purposeful and redemptive (Jer. 18:1–6; Isa. 64:8).

#### Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What is biblical discipline?  
**A:** Loving correction and training, not punishment, designed to form Christ in us (Heb. 12:5–11).
2. **Q:** Why does God discipline His children?  
**A:** Because He loves us, to train us in righteousness, and to produce maturity (Heb. 12:6, 11; Rom. 5:3–5).
3. **Q:** How does the Spirit discipline believers?  
**A:** Through conviction (John 16:8), Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16), trials (Rom. 8:28), consequences (1 Cor. 11:31–32), and godly sorrow (2 Cor. 7:9–10).
4. **Q:** How should we respond to discipline?  
**A:** By not despising it, submitting in humility, and trusting God's goodness (Prov. 3:11–12; James 4:6–10).
5. **Q:** What fruit does discipline produce?  
**A:** Righteousness, holiness, endurance, and peace (Heb. 12:11; Gal. 5:22–23).
6. **Q:** What biblical image helps us understand discipline?  
**A:** The Potter and the clay—God shaping us for His purposes (Jer. 18:1–6; Isa. 64:8).

**“God's discipline is never condemnation but transformation—His loving hand shaping us into the image of Christ.”**