

Part 5. The Holy Spirit

Lesson 3: The Discipline of the Spirit

Lesson Summary

God's discipline is not punishment but the loving work of grace, shaping His children into Christ's likeness (Heb. 12:6; Rom. 8:29). God's discipline means correction, training, and refining—not rejection (Eph. 1:6; Rom. 8:1).

The Holy 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).

The believer's right response is to accept discipline 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 and restorative, always forming Christ within 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).

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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.”