

God's Instructive Discipline – Part II

Hebrews 12:5-11

I. The Believer And Trials, Testings and Discipline.

A. Trials – I Peter 4:12 – Come upon everyone!

1. As a result of living in a _____ – Genesis 3:17-19.
2. As a result of living for _____ in a world in rebellion against God – I Peter 4:3-4.
3. As a result of _____ – I Peter 1:6-7.

B. Testings are specific trials designed to:

1. _____ our faith – I Peter 1:6-7.
2. _____ our Christian character – James 1:2-4.
3. _____ is for a specific purpose – Hebrews 12:5-11.

C. Disciplines are specific testings designed to:

1. _____ our sinful behavior – I Peter 4:17; David and the Corinthian believers.
2. _____ sinful behavior – II Corinthians 12:7-10 – Paul.
3. _____ us further in the person and nature of God.

II. How Can Know If We Are Being Tested Or Disciplined To Correct Behavior?

A. Am I experiencing conviction of sin or do I have a clear conscience?

B. Am I being drawn nearer God or being drawn away from God?

C. Is my prayer time more precious or is it hindered?

D. Are we being drawn closer to our Christian brothers and sisters or are we being annoyed by them?

E. Can we have joy in spite of the trials?

F. Is our service for God strengthened or hindered?

III. **God's Corrective Discipline.**

IV. **God's Preventive Discipline.**

A. God sometimes disciplines to prevent sin.

B. The Apostle Paul is our example here.

C. Most, if not all of us have probably experienced God's preventative discipline.

V. **God's Educational Discipline.**

A. Sometimes God disciplines His children so we will learn things that will equip us for better service and living.

B. Job is our example of educational discipline.

C. Yes, God's discipline was educational.

D. Discipline can also teach sympathy for others.

E. Jesus' disciples experienced this educational discipline in Matthew 14:22-33.