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Hebrews 12:4-11

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; ⁵ and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

“MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,

AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

⁷ Endure as discipline, since God is treating you as sons: for

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⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore, we had our fathers according to the flesh as disciplinarians, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of our spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share in His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

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Endure as Discipline

“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” (Heb. 10:36)

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Endure as Discipline

- 1) Endure like Jesus – He enables and exemplifies endurance in the face of great suffering
- 2) Endure as Discipline – endure suffering as God’s fatherly, formative discipline

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The Lord’s Better Discipline

1. A Better Obligation

- if we respected our human fathers, we should all the more submit to God’s fatherly discipline
- this submission will enable us to “live” – eternal life both now and the age to come

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The Lord's Better Discipline

2. A Better Quality

- God is not limited, and His discipline is therefore absolutely for the good of His children
- His discipline is never unfair, unwise, unloving or too severe, even at the hands of hostile men

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The Lord's Better Discipline

3. A Better Purpose

- His purpose in discipline is to transform and confirm us in God-like character that we might share in the very life of God
- we may not know the specific reasons for specific suffering, but we can rest in God's ultimate, good purpose

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The Lord's Better Discipline

4. A Lasting Fruit

- the present pain of God's fatherly discipline is well worth the future gain for which it prepares us
- God's discipline produces the "peaceful fruit" that comes from a right relationship to Him

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