

August 3, 2020

Because God loves you, He Provides- Part 56

Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you?

God proves His love to you by providing **His disciplining love** to you. **Heb. 12:11** *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*

The Greek word for discipline is *paideia* which means to train, educate, correct or chastise. Our Heavenly Father loves us too much to not correct us and train us towards righteousness. I think we can all recall instances where discipline brought about something great. I recall one of the toughest coaches I ever had in football would work us so very hard and make us run plays over and over again. Many of the guys thought he was just plain mean, but when we continued to win and were able to run the plays to near perfection, we realized that the effort put out in practice was bringing great dividends on the playing field. It was the same in track workouts (the same coach) as we had to run with ankle weights. He would time us and record our times in his notebook. By the end of the first week, he would then let us run without the ankle weights and every person took at least 3-5 seconds off their previous bests in the 440 yard run. The discipline didn't seem pleasant, but it produced!

In the same manner, God loves us so much that He disciplines us. **James 1:2-4**, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* It is in the refining process that the impurities are removed and we become more and more useable for the Master. He finally gets us to the point where He can see the reflection of His image in us.

A Father who loves his children will discipline them out of love so that they can be trained and produce the righteousness of God in their lives. I choose to count it joy when I face the discipline because I need it. Is it easy? Never. Do we need it? Absolutely. Being the perfect Father that He is, He knows just what we need because His goal is for us to be made into the likeness of His Son, Jesus.

Dear Father, help us to count it joy when we are disciplined. It is very hard to do this, but it is in the crucible that what is inside of us is shown for what it is. Thank You for loving us enough to discipline us. In Jesus Name, Amen