

March 3, 2020

Disciplining Love

Prov. 3:11-12, “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent His rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in.”

It is interesting that we tend to think that love must always feel good and that discipline always brings about pain. The only reason our Father would discipline us is not to hurt us, but to show us that His love is there to mold us into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. True discipline is painful, but it has a greater good in mind, motivated by love. Heb. 12:11 says: “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.” This passage reminds me of two-a-days practices for football. After the first week, I was so sore, I could barely move. But by the end of the second week, I felt stronger and in better shape. Now my coach could have said, “Hey guys, I don’t want you all to use all your energy before we start the season, so we are just going to walk through all of our plays.” Anyone who has played almost any sport knows that it is in the hard practice that the game is won. As you train your body, you realize that you are prepared to do what it takes to perform.

In the same way, God disciplines us for His good purposes. His plan is much larger and greater than we can even imagine. We must be in “spiritual shape” so that we can do what He calls us to do. So do not despise God when He brings you into the area of discipline. He is not trying to hurt you, but to help you. James 1:2-4, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[\[a\]](#) 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.”

Dear Father, I thank You that You love me enough to discipline me and guide me with Your mighty right hand. You are preparing me to be a vessel that You can use to reach others for Christ. In Jesus name, Amen