

*A Harvest of Peace and Righteousness*  
*Hebrews 12:1-11*

*“Some people become so overcome by their problems that they give up; they become despondent, depressed, faint. They become spiritually inert, unresponsive to what God is doing or why. They are not callous, complaining, questioning, or careless. They are simply immobilized. They give up and collapse. The psalmist had this experience, and cries out to himself, ‘Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?’ He knew his problem, and he also knew the cure, for he continues, ‘Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance, and my God’ (Ps. 42:11). The cure for hopelessness is hope in God. The child of God has no need to faint because of God’s discipline. God gives it to strengthen us, not to weaken us, to encourage us, not to discourage us, to build us up, not to tear us down.*

*When, by our taking it lightly or by our becoming despondent, God’s discipline is not allowed to accomplish His purpose in us, Satan is the victor. God’s purpose is lost, and our blessing is lost.” MacArthur*

- I. We live in the inhospitable environment of an evil world system that is at war with God and His children. The warfare we are in is deadly, violent, and ruthless, it shows no mercy and its goal is to render us ineffective in our stand for righteousness. We need training to toughen us mentally, spiritually, and physically so that we can remain true to God our Father as we fight the good fight of faith. It would be irresponsible and unloving of God to leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Instead, he brings into our lives hardship to train us to keep our eyes on Christ, to not lose heart, to not grow weary, and to persevere. It is to be appreciated for how it changes us, and it is never to be treated lightly because it comes from a fiercely protective and loving Father who knows what’s best for us.

Hebrews 12:1-6

1 Tim. 4:8

Matt. 7:24-27

Matt. 7:26-27

Mark 4:16-17

Rom. 8:14-16

Heb. 11:35-38

**Gal. 4:4-6** *4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”*

- II. God is not an enabler. He wants nothing to do with coddling or allowing us to stay immature in our faith. As His legitimate children, He is intent on us sharing in His holiness, which means that he'll bring into our lives the discipline and trials necessary to make us more and more holy. The process He puts us through is known as progressive sanctification. It teaches us to say no to sin and the ways of this world and yes to holiness and God's ways (Titus 2:12). Like it or not we, as His legitimate children, are under his parental authority to work in our lives what is necessary to conform us into the likeness of His Son. It is best then, out of gratitude and appreciation for His loving care, to let Him do the work he began in us so that we may become mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:4).

Heb. 12:7-10

Jn 8:44

Jn. 3:5-8

**παιδεία παιδεία** – chastisement, chastening, the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body. Strong's Concordance

**1 Cor. 6:11** *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

**Romans 8:29-30** *9 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

**2 Cor. 3:18** *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- III. The immutable biblical principle of sowing and reaping not only applies to man (**Gal. 6:7-9**) but also to God. It's His principle. According to Mark the seed of His Word when planted in fertile hearts produces a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what is sown (**Mk. 4:20**). He also sows the seeds of peace and righteousness in our hearts to reap a harvest of peace and righteousness in due time. The water he uses to get the seeds to sprout is hardship, but the benefit we experience trains us to express His wonderful attributes of peace and righteousness to those in need salvation.

Heb. 12:11-13; James 3:17-18; Psalm 85:10

**Gal. 6:9** *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*