

God’s Plan For Your Problems

Hebrews 12:3-17
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Three truths to consider when life gets hard:

I. God disciplines us to make us _____.

Hebrews 12:3-4 NIV84 Consider him who **endured** such opposition from **sinful men so that** you will **not** grow **weary** and **lose heart**.⁴ In your struggle against **sin** you have **not yet** resisted to the point of shedding your **blood**.

A. “What doesn’t kill you makes you _____!”

B. You are not _____ ...yet – hang in there.

What _____ challenges are tempting you to get discouraged or give up?

II. God disciplines us because He _____ us.

A. God’s discipline is _____ that He is a **loving father**.

Hebrews 12:5-6 NIV84 And you have **forgotten** that word of **encouragement** that addresses you as **sons**: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,⁶ because **the Lord disciplines those he loves**, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”

Christian, do you _____ /train your children? If not, why not?

B. God’s discipline can be _____ even when it hurts.

Hebrews 12:7-9 NIV84 Endure **hardship** as discipline God is treating you as **sons**. **For what son is not disciplined by his father?**⁸ If you are **not** disciplined (and **everyone** undergoes discipline, then you are **illegitimate** children and not true sons.⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who **disciplined** us and we **respected** them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Do you believe that God _____ what He is doing, even when life is hard?

C. God’s discipline is for our _____ and God’s glory.

Hebrews 12:10-13 NIV84 Our fathers disciplined us for a **little while** as they thought best; but **God disciplines us for our good**, that we may share in his holiness.¹⁴ 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.¹² Therefore, **strengthen your feeble arms** and weak knees.¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Do you realize that God is _____ you on in your trials?

III. God disciplines us to make us _____ like Him.

A. Like God, we should make every _____ to live at peace with people.

Hebrews 12:14-15 NIV84 **Make every effort** to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.¹⁵ See to it that no one misses the **grace** of God and that no **bitter root** grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Who do you need to get _____ with? What is your plan?

B. Like God, we should _____ sin and do what is right.

Hebrews 12:16-17 NIV84 See that no one is **sexually immoral**, or is godless like **Esau**, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.¹⁷ Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was **rejected**. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with **tears**.

Choose _____ (not sin) today.

“The beauty of the stone is in direct proportion to the degree of difficulty it has experienced.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the following in light of your present difficulties: “The beauty of the pebble is in direct proportion to the degree of difficulty it has experienced.”
2. What external challenges are tempting you to get discouraged or give up?
3. Do you discipline/train your children? If not, why not?
4. Do you believe that God knows what He is doing, even when life is hard? Why or why not?
5. Describe what you believe is God’s attitude when He disciplines you. Do you realize that God is cheering you on in your trials?
6. Who do you need to make an effort to live at peace with? Describe your plan, or make one now.

Parenting Resources:

www.trc.life/parentingbooks