



# Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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## Discipline From God

God is our perfect and loving heavenly Father who only wants the absolute best for His children. He desires to see us grow spiritually mature, becoming more and more like Jesus Christ. As a good Father, God uses discipline to help us grow. God's discipline instructs us and shapes us into the image of Christ. The Bible teaches clearly that the various challenges or hardships Christians face may at times result from God's choosing to discipline us.

- The Purpose Of Discipline

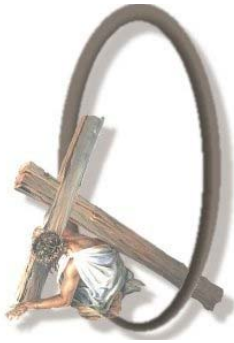
*Job 5:17* <sup>17</sup> "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

The ultimate benefit of God's discipline ("chastening") is that we become more like Christ; and as we do, we experience God's abundant life here on earth.

God disciplines us to lead us to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9) and to help us be more faithful (Psalm 119:67). He disciplines us to keep us humble (2 Corinthians 12:7-9) and to teach us discernment (1 Corinthians 11:31, 32). Though discipline is difficult, He blesses us through it. *Psalm 94:12, 13* says, "Blessed is the man whom you instruct, O Lord, And teach out of Your law, That You may give him rest from the days of adversity."

In the process of being disciplined, we develop an intimate relationship with God because we better understand His will and what pleases Him. God's discipline helps us learn the boundaries He has established for our care and protection - boundaries that bring more satisfaction and fulfillment than rebelling against God and His discipline. When we live within those boundaries, we live the way God created us to live and reap the rewards of a God-honoring life.

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- God Disciplines As A Loving Father

*Proverbs 3:11, 12* <sup>11</sup>My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor detest His correction; <sup>12</sup>For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom delights.

God's discipline marks Christians as His children. In fact, *Hebrews 12:8* says, "But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons." If God did not care about us, He would not care about us, He would not care about how we live. A human father instructs and corrects a child because he cares for that child and does not want to see him or her going astray. Our heavenly Father delights in us so much that He wants the best for us - His best - and that is what God's discipline offers us.

Pray with David, who wrote: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting" (*Psalms 139:23, 24*).

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