

A BRAND-NEW SERIES BY DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

SPIRITUAL FITNESS

STRENGTHENING YOUR FAITH IN TROUBLED TIMES

A STUDY OF HEBREWS 11-13

REPROOFS THAT RESTORE

HEBREWS 12:5-11

OCTOBER 11, 2020

Introduction: We know that unbelievers will be punished for their unforgiven sin throughout eternity, but does God ever punish Christians for their sins? The writer of Hebrews answers that question definitely in today's study from Hebrews 12.

Hebrews 12:5-7 ⁵ "You have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, 'MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; ⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.' ⁷ It is for discipline that you endure, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"

Luke 15:20 "So he [the son] got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

I. The Definition Of A Reproof (Proverbs 10:17)

A reproof is simply a difficult circumstance God allows in your life to **correct** your behavior and **restore** your relationship with Him.

Proverbs 10:17 "He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who ignores reproof goes astray."

Proverbs 12:1 "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."

Proverbs 13:18 "Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored."

Proverbs 15:10 "Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; he who hates reproof will die."

Proverbs 29:1 "A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy."

James 1:2-5 ² “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

II. Examples of God’s Reproofs

A. Financial Pressure (Proverbs 6:26)

Proverbs 6:26 “For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread...”

B. Family Conflict (2 Samuel 12:10)

C. Illness (James 5:13-18)

Three Reasons For Sickness

1. Some sickness leads to **death**. (John 11:4)

2. Some sickness is for the **glory of God**. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

2 Corinthians 12:9 “And He has said to me [Paul], ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

3. Some sickness is the result of **personal sin**. (Psalm 32:3-4)

Psalm 32:3-4 ³ “When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.”

James 5:14-16 ¹⁴ “Is there anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed.”

III. Three Timeless Truths About God’s Reproofs

A. God’s Reproofs Are Impartial (Hebrews 12:5-8)

Hebrews 12:5-8 ⁵ “You have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, ‘MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; ⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.’ ⁷ It is for discipline that you endure, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

1 Corinthians 10:1-5 ¹ “For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; ³ and all ate the same spiritual food; ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.”

1 Corinthians 10:5 “Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.”

B. God’s Reproofs Are Restorative (Hebrews 12:9-10)

Hebrews 12:9-10 ⁹ “Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.”

Proverbs 3:12 “For whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as father corrects the son in whom he delights.”

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Hebrews 12:7, 10⁷ “It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ¹⁰ ...He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.”

C. God’s Reproofs Are Instructional (Hebrews 12:11)

Hebrews 12:11 “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 “Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction...”

Conclusion