

Attitude #3 Submissive

Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

I give my will and my life to Jesus Christ

Submissive - giving in or tending to give in to the demands or authority of another or others.
Ready to submit to others.

Compliant, subservient, passive, docile or meek.

Hebrews 12:6-11 - For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (Proverbs 3:11-12) 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

None of us would say that learning the hard way is pleasant. In fact, if we could do some things over again there is no guarantee that we would do them differently, but there is a high probability that we would at least change a few things. Our sin nature, the nature that you and I were born with, is not naturally compliant to the demands and authority of others. We can become very set in our ways whether our way is right or wrong and we are more comfortable doing things our way than we are open to doing them another way.

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth (to appear to be something) right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

All of us know that there have been ways that we have chosen to live, and they did not turn out the way that we may have thought they would turn out. In some cases, we have paid the price for our foolish decisions. The price always varies regarding the circumstances, but God's word comes up true repeatedly. **Hebrews 12** gives us a glimpse of the "why" concerning the discipline of God. We know from verse 6 that the root of God's discipline is always love, but in verse 11 we

see the reason for His discipline. So then, as we unfold the truth of this verse, we can not only learn from the discipline of God but also see it differently concerning God's objective for it.

Again, no one would say that we enjoy being disciplined; not by God and not by anyone else. But when we see the intention from God's perspective, we will be more inclined to surrender to God's intention than we would be prone to become defeated during those times of discipline. Much of life regarding our quality of life includes how we respond to life. Rebellion has its consequences, we know that. Responding correctly to the consequences and finding meaning in life during the consequences can bring hope in situations that might seem to appear hopeless. God does not cause rebellion neither does He condone rebellion, but He CAN give us purpose when we respond correctly to His will regarding His discipline in our lives.

Hebrews 12:11 - Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

1. A Realistic Description. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous (the cause or occasion of joy), but grievous (heaviness, pain, sorrow, affliction)

Having a proper understanding of certain words will better equip us to apply God's word. When we see the meaning of the word chastening it sheds light on the entire verse and most importantly the objective and motive of God concerning us. The word "**chastening or chasten**" speaks of the following..... "To train, to be instructed or taught, to cause to learn, to reprimand with words or punishment by those who are molding the character of another."

In other words, the purpose of the chastening or correction is not simply to inflict pain. However, pain may be part of the experience so that we might learn from the experience and correct the behavior and most importantly not continue to repeat it. Paul agrees that the chastening is not enjoyable; it is obviously not the good part. The good part, we will learn, is what God is trying to accomplish.

Helpful responses to the chastening:

- **Don't rebel against it.....**in other words; do not use it for an excuse for further rebellion.

Many of us have been guilty of the mindset of "once I've already messed up and I am beginning to pay the price for it, what's the use in trying to do better?" We need to understand that the fallout from my own rebellion cannot be justifiably placed on anyone else. Rebelling against the

chastening is rebelling against the will of God. If God in His sovereignty has decided that it is in my best interest to be chastened by Him than the best thing I can do is recognize that, submit to that, and ask Him to help me through it.

- **Always own up to it.....do not excuse it away.**

As I look back on my life, I can see so many times where I did not own up to my own choices that caused so much trouble. If I could find someone or something to blame, I would do so as long as I could. Owning up to our rebellion is the beginning of learning how we can avoid repeating it.

Psalms 51:3,4 - For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

- **Ask God to help you learn from it.**

When we have a desire to learn we are lining ourselves up with God's desire to teach. If the objective for chastening is to cause us to learn then we are much better off when we are willing to experience that objective. If we are willing God is able and if we are willing God is ready to teach us during our time of chastening.

Our prayer.....Psalms 25:4 - Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

God's desire.....Psalms 25:8 - Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

2. A Sovereign Timing. nevertheless afterward

Sovereignty of God - God's absolute right to do everything according to His own will and good pleasure.

These two very simple but very important words seem to connect the verse providing a truth that we need to help us endure the chastening; "**nevertheless afterward**".....it speaks of having an expectant end; it is not designed to last forever.

God's hand of discipline will be as heavy and as timely as it needs to be in order that He might reach His objective in our lives. The sooner we get to the place of admission (admit that we

have sinned), repentance (ask God to forgive us) and surrender (surrender to God's will) the sooner the heavy hand of God will be lifted.

3. A Priceless Objective. It *yieldeth* (to deliver, reward, to pay off) the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

The word fruit speaks to "that which originates or comes from something; an effect or result." No one likes to think of it this way, but affliction can produce peace, by producing more righteousness because the fruit of righteousness is peace. If the pain of the body contributes to the peace of the mind, and temporary present affliction produces holy fruits, then we have no reason to fret or faint under the chastening. So then, we can confidently say that the result of the chastening CAN and should be righteousness, which in practical terms means "right living."

Any way you look at it; throughout the entire Bible we see that there can be no true peace without holiness. Peace without righteousness, peace without godliness, peace without right living is no peace at all. Submitting to the will of God is where peace begins and remains.

Psalms 34:14 - Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalms 37:37 - Mark (observe, give heed to) the *perfect* (complete, morally innocent, having integrity) man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is *peace* (completeness, soundness, and contentment).