

MAKING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR SINS AND THE REMEDIAL DISCIPLINES OF THE LORD

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and 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; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

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? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons (Hebrews 12:4-8 NASB).

- 1 Please pray that every Christian in America will understand that when we sin against God, individually or corporately, He loves us as a father and disciplines us to help us repent and turn away from that which is displeasing to Him.
- 2 Just as in times past, there are many Christians today who regard lightly the kind of love that moves God to discipline us as His children. Please pray that the leaders of your church family will take God's corrective disciplines seriously and will help their church members understand the biblical basis of God's discipline and how to repent.
- 3 Some people faint when they are disciplined by God. Please pray that your Christian friends will not give up their pursuit of God when He disciplines them, but will quickly move toward Him in genuine repentance and change.
- 4 Please pray for the salvation of those in your community who never experience the discipline of God, knowing that even if they have their names on a church's membership role, they are “illegitimate children and not sons.”
- 5 Please pray that those you know who are currently facing God's discipline will find hope in the truth that God “disciplines us for our good, so that we may share his holiness” (Hebrews 12:10).
- 6 Please pray that those around you who are facing the sorrows associated with God's training methods will soon know His joy and the “peaceful fruit of righteousness” (Hebrews 12:11).
- 7 Pray that as Christians, we will be sensitive to our ways and deeds, and to the mindsets and approaches to life that define our actions. God always disciplines His children when our ways and deeds no longer reflect what is pleasing in His sight (Ezekiel 36:19).
- 8 When we depart from God's ways, His reputation can be tarnished in the minds of those living in our communities (Ezekiel 36:22-23). If things are not going well among believers where you are, please pray that God will bring revival to your area so His reputation may be restored.
- 9 Please pray that when churches in your area fall under God's discipline, they will repent and have their hearts of stone replaced by spiritually soft hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26).
- 10 Pray that congregations who have been under God's discipline will receive from Him a great outpouring of His Spirit (Ezekiel 36:27). Pray that God will cause them to walk in His statutes and that they will be careful to observe His ordinances.
- 11 Please pray that the evil ways of churches in your city will be so radically repented of that the only thing remaining of those evil ways will be their memory (Ezekiel 36:31).
- 12 When Israel repented of her evil ways, God allowed them to ask Him for increased numbers of men (Ezekiel 36:37). Wouldn't it be wonderful if God allowed us to see a great spiritual awakening follow the reviving of the American church? Please join together today in asking Him for this very thing!

- 13** When Daniel saw in the Word that the completion of seventy years of God's discipline against His people were coming to a close, he became an intercessor on behalf of the nation, confessing their sins and assuming responsibility for that which his nation had done (Daniel 9:2-19). Please pray that God will call out an army of intercessors in America who will have that same kind of heart and humility.
- 14** One thing Daniel confessed as he humbled himself before God on behalf of Israel was their failure to obey "the voice of the LORD" as He spoke through the prophets (Daniel 9:10). Please ask God to forgive us for failing to hear His voice as He speaks by His Spirit through His Word.
- 15** In Hosea's day, God began to discipline His people by breaking down the altars and sacred pillars they had built through their affluence. This discipline came because their hearts were faithless (Hosea 10:1-2). As church buildings are being vacated and torn down across America, please pray that we will repent of any faithlessness on our part, and trust God to restore His church.
- 16** Hosea said the people of his day had plowed wickedness and reaped injustice (Hosea 10:13). Pray that we will align our hearts to do what Hosea commanded the people to do: "Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD until He comes to rain righteousness on you" (Hosea 10:12).
- 17** Please pray that we will not despise those moments when God disciplines us, since "happy is the man whom God reproves" (Job 5:17).
- 18** When God disciplines us, He will often show us through His Word how we have offended Him. Please pray that we will not hate His discipline or cast His words behind us (Psalm 50:17).
- 19** Pray for your church family to understand that God's "commandment is a lamp and [His] teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).
- 20** Please pray that your Christian friends will actually grow to love God's discipline, because His Word tells us that "whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1).
- 21** The wisdom found in Proverbs encourages us to pray today that we will never overlook the discipline of God, for "poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored" (Proverbs 13:18).
- 22** Please pray that your pastor will never miss or misconstrue God's discipline, because "he who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding" (Proverbs 15:32).
- 23** Pray today for the authorities God has brought into your life. Ask the Father to help them "listen to counsel and accept discipline" so they will be wise for the rest of their days (Proverbs 19:20).
- 24** If you know any individuals or churches who are pushing back against God's discipline, pray that they will repent and submit to God today, because "a man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy" (Proverbs 29:1).
- 25** Please pray that your church family will purpose to lay down the sins of this world system, because "when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world" (1 Corinthians 11:32).
- 26** When individuals have hindered their fellowship with God through sin, their time with the Father in His Word is often cut short. Please pray that the Spirit will guide those you know who are away from God back into His Word, because "all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).
- 27** According to Jeremiah 5:3, there are some individuals who refuse to accept correction and make changes in their lives. Please pray that there would be no one like this in your church family, individuals who make "their faces harder than rock" and refuse to repent.
- 28** Just like individuals, there are churches or even nations that refuse to repent when God disciplines them. Please pray that every church in your city will repent of its evil ways, lest the truth be cut off from them (Jeremiah 7:27-28).
- 29** Please pray for any churches you know of who have lost their first love for Jesus. Pray that they will remember from where they have fallen, will repent, and will do the deeds they did at first. Pray that revival will come to that congregation before God's disciplines become final judgments (Revelation 2:4-5).
- 30** There are some congregations in America who, like the church at Pergamum, have left the sound teachings of God's Word or have mixed truth with error (Revelation 2:14-16). Please pray that these churches will repent, lest God also makes war against them with the sword of His mouth.