



# The Father's Discipline!

Psalm 13 Heb 12:1-11 Matt 6:25-34

August 23, 2020

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Problems, pain, and suffering are complicated things. The troubles we face can affect our health, our finances, and our relationships. They preoccupy you during the day; they cause you to toss and turn at night; and sometimes they can even change the course of your entire life. They bring worry, stress, fear, and sorrow.

What's worse, *you can never know* **why** problems, pain, or suffering are happening! In Scripture, problems, pain, and suffering can come from:

- ⇒ Your own actions
- ⇒ Someone else's actions
- ⇒ The devil and his demons
- ⇒ Just because you live in this broken and sinful world
- ⇒ Or even from God Himself.

***You just never know WHY!***

In the book of Hebrews we are taught to consider **ALL** of our problems, pain, or suffering as coming from God's good hand.

Endure hardship as discipline; *God is treating you as sons.*  
Hebrews 12:7

In a book of Hebrews, we are to consider **ALL** of our **problems, pain, or suffering** as coming from God's good hand. It really doesn't matter what the cause, or how something happened, or if you were right or wrong: *just consider it ALL as coming from God's good hand!*

The reason is because God is your Father in Heaven who dearly loves you and faithfully watches over you. He uses all of your **problems, pain, or suffering** as loving discipline. His goal is to strengthen your faith, to deepen your trust in His Word, and to bring you closer to Him. He is your Father in Heaven and He is treating you as sons and daughters!

In this passage, “**Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons**” -- don't misunderstand the word **discipline**! **It does not mean punishment, as it does in English.** Remember that Jesus faced your *punishment* for you on the cross. God does not send **problems and pain** to *punish* you for your sin. ***It doesn't work that way!*** God sent Jesus to be *punished* for you on the cross; He *suffered* the full extent for your sins; there is nothing left to *punish*. He is your Savior who shed His blood so that you are forgiven; God has promised to *never ever remember* your sins; you now belong to God's family. **You belong to God Himself!**

The word “**discipline**” here means *training, correction, teaching*, and even *warning*. It is how a loving father teaches his beloved son or daughter. It's through your **hardships** and your **pain** and your **suffering** that your Heavenly Father works in your life with His love and grace and mercy!

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, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." Hebrews 12:5-6

When you are going through **problems, pain, or suffering**, **first and foremost**, keep a biblical perspective on it. Endure your hardship as discipline: **training, correction, teaching**, and even **warning**. This is how the Heavenly Father works: He is treating you as His very own child.

If you don't keep a biblical perspective, then you'll be tempted blame God for the troubles in your life. *Once you do that, it is a fast fall from faith.* If you blame God for your **problems, pain, or suffering**, then they will become a wedge between you and God and it will grow wider and deeper. You will grow farther and farther away from God -- many people lose their faith because they blame God for their problems. They get angry and bitter; they think that God has mistreated them; that their pain or suffering "isn't fair"; or they believe that they "*deserve better.*"

The Biblical perspective on your **problems, pain, or suffering** is that they are **signs of how much God loves you and cares about you!** It's a **sign of His grace and mercy** for you personally! Through faith in Christ, your **problems, pain, or suffering** are turned upside down: they are **not punishments, but blessings!** God your Father in Heaven is at work to strengthen your faith, to deepen your trust in His Word, and to bring you closer to Him. God is your Father in Heaven and He is treating you as His son and daughter!

Hebrews also teaches us that we are to **endure our hardships**. Faith in God's goodness to you, even in the midst of suffering, **empowers** you to **patiently endure**.

**Patient endurance** is our attitude towards **problem, pain, and suffering**. **Patient endurance** is the **posture of faith** in the midst

of suffering. **Patient endurance is active trust in your Heavenly Father and His Promises as you wait for His help!** *Patient endurance* is holding on to God and His promises through your hardships. *Patient endurance* is remaining faithful to God no matter how long it takes for Him to answer your prayer. *Patient endurance* is looking to God for all good things and turning to Him in times of trouble. *Patient endurance* knows that God cares and is at work -- that He is your loving Father in Heaven, and He is treating you as His own son or daughter! When you face **problems, pain, or suffering**, remain faithful, actively trust Him, and patiently wait for His help.

*Patient endurance* trusts in **God's steadfast love**; it **rejoices** in God's **salvation** in the Lord Jesus Christ. It even **sings** to the Lord! *Patient endurance* knows and believes that God your Father in Heaven is good! You learn in Scripture, and look back over your life, and you know and you can see that God has been good to you, and that whatever He is doing in your life right now is also good! **Patient endurance is active trust in your Heavenly Father! You trust His steadfast love, and all of His Promises to you!**

The original congregation that received the book of Hebrews was up against fierce persecution. That is how the Heavenly Father was working in their lives. Even in that context, they could consider their hardships as loving discipline from their gracious and compassionate Heavenly Father.

**So can you today** --- no matter what you are up against. Keep a biblical perspective on your **problems, pain, and suffering**.

**Endure hardship as discipline; *God is treating you as sons.***

**Hebrews 12:7**

Amen!