

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones
Chapter 17: Chastening
Hebrews 12:5-11

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM;

Heb 12:6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

Heb 12:7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

Heb 12:8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

Heb 12:10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Lloyd-Jones – “A most prolific cause of this condition of spiritual depression is the failure to realize that God uses varied methods in the process of our sanctification... God’s great concern for us primarily is not our happiness but our holiness.”

Review of last week’s lesson on depression that arises from many and varied trials.

It is a paradox that we as Christians would be those who rejoice in the Lord’s great work for us, but at the same time, we can be in “heaviness.” When we lose sight of all that the Lord has done for us in which we rejoice, we can be swallowed up with depression because of the degree and longevity of our trials. However, if we remember that the Lord is in control and there is a need for such trials to draw us to Himself, to chasten us and train us, to prepare us for greater service or greater trials. Through these tests the Lord causes our faith to grow and provides praise, honor, and glory and the appearance of Jesus Christ. Lloyd-Jones finally encourages us by pointing out that the heaviness due to these trials is but “for a season.” He reminds us to consider all that the Lord has done for us through Jesus Christ and that our great hope is that we will see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face who will wipe every tear from our eyes.

Chapter 17: Chastening

1. Lloyd-Jones begins his consideration of chastening by pointing us to the fact that when the Lord begins a work, He intends to finish it and to make us holy. What is the first means that the Lord uses after conversion to begin such a work to make us holy?
2. If we are children we will endure chastening. What is the definition of chastening?
3. Besides the passage we are studying for this lesson, name 3 other key passages on chastening?

4. Name four means that God may use in chastening His own. Be it remembered, however, that though all chastening is a trial, not all trials are primarily chastening (John 9:1ff).

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

5. Name two general reasons for why our Father chastens us:

1)

2)

6. Name 5 specific reasons why the Lord would so painfully train us.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

7. The Lord is making us holy through His chastisements. Lloyd-Jones mentions that the Lord is producing in us the qualities seen in the Beatitudes and the fruits of the Spirit. What three positive fruits does he stress?

1)

2)

3)

8. Undoubtedly, the crowning virtue we are to issue through chastening is love for the Lord. He loves us and therefore chastens us that we may learn to love Him and His people more and more.

2Co 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.