

Disciplines to Maturity

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I. Introduction.

A. Hebrews 12:10.

B. God disciplines us for our profit that we might partake in His holiness.

II. The discipline of disturbance. (Deuteronomy 32:10)

III. The discipline of delight.

A. We are always in a hurry and it seems that God is always slow.

B. Wait on God. (2 Timothy 2:24, Habakkuk 2:3, 2 Corinthians 6:4, Isaiah 55:8-9)

C. God's timing is very important. (Isaiah 30:15, 30:18, Psalm 27:13, Genesis 15:16, Galatians 4:4)

IV. The discipline of disappointment.

A. The thorn in the flesh kept Paul in the ministry. (2 Corinthians 12:7)

B. Two kinds of knowledge do not puff up - knowledge about God and self.

C. The things that we do not get help shape us.

D. God will bring difficult things into our life so that we can partake in His holiness. (Philippians 4:11)

V. The discipline of inequality. (Psalm 75:5-6)

A. All people are not equal.

B. We do not have to understand everything that God does in our life.

C. You cannot be obedient and responsible at the same time.

VI. The discipline of darkness.

A. Sometimes the Lord sends darkness in our lives. (Isaiah 50:10)

B. Never doubt in the dark what God has revealed in the light. (Isaiah 45:2-3, Matthew 27:45)

C. Out of the treasures of darkness come some precious promises. (Habakkuk 2:13)

D. God will give us all we can stand because He loves us and wants us to partake in His holiness.

Application questions

1. How does God discipline through delight? How has He done this in your life?

2. How does God discipline through disappointment? How has He done this in your life?

3. How can it be said that difficulty can be a good thing? Explain.
