

Trusting God for His Love

Jerry Bridges

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Luke 12:6-7.
- B. God not only controls the fate of the sparrows, but also cares for them.
- C. You are not forgotten by God, so you should not be afraid when adversity comes to you.

II. There are several things that need to be considered when it comes to the love of God.

A. God is the essence of love. (1 John 4:8, 1 John 1:5)

- 1. God gave Jesus to die in our place to prevent the greatest possible calamity in our lives- eternal separation from Him. This is proof of His love.
- 2. So if God did not withhold Jesus from you, He will not withhold other lesser blessings. (Romans 8:31-32)

B. God is both in control and deeply loving toward you and no detail of your life escapes Him. (Luke 12:7, Isaiah 40:10-11)

- 1. God is sovereign and reigns with might over the circumstances of your life.
- 2. God is aware of you and tenderly cares for you, even when you cannot emotionally feel that tenderness. (Lamentations 3:31-33)

III. If God is in control, why do we experience such deep pain? The foremost reason is found in Hebrews 12:5,6-11.

A. This passage is meant to encourage us- that is, to fortify us with the ability to endure in times of difficulty.

B. God “disciplines” or “trains” us through adversity because He loves us. (Ephesians 6:4)

- 1. This discipline is not necessarily a response to a certain act of misbehavior, but rather a refining of our character defects.
- 2. The goal of God’s discipline is to create Christ’s character in us.

IV. Neither blessing nor adversity is inherently an indicator of the love of God. (Acts 12:2)

A. The sacrifice of Jesus is an indicator of the love of God.

B. The discipline of God is an indicator of His love.

C. God feels our pain and cares for us. We must believe this whether or not we feel it emotionally. (Isaiah 63:9)

Application questions:

1. What is the purpose of God's discipline in your life?

2. What proof do you have of the love of God for you?

3. Why is it difficult to trust God's love for you when there is hardship in your life? How can you be encouraged in those difficult seasons?
