



Holy Habits

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Part 4

April 28, 2024

The Book of Proverbs 3:1-12, “My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, ²for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. ³Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. ⁹Honor the Lord with your wealth and with

the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. ¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word, In Jesus Name! Amen!

Throughout the month of April, we have worked our way through our current series entitled, “Holy Habits” during which we navigated through Proverbs chapter 3 together. We’ve discussed not leaning to our own understanding, acknowledging God in our private lives, being careful to not think of ourselves higher than we should, having a healthy understanding of the fear of the Lord and choosing Him over evil desires, honoring God in our wealth and blessings which include our time, our talents and our treasures.

And today, we are going to focus in our verses 11-12, ¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” Therefore, Point #1...

1) When Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We are Willing to Embrace Discipline rather than Contend Against It!

- a) The Book of Proverbs 15:32-33, “Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.
³³The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”
- b) Friends, when we refuse to receive instruction from the Lord and from His Holy Word, we are choosing to hate ourselves rather than cherish ourselves. How many people have we witnessed ourselves in our collective lifetimes that refused instruction, refused counsel, refused a friendly course correction and their lives ended in destruction?
- c) The Scripture instructs us that the person who ignored instruction despises himself but the one who listens to correction gains intelligence. And friends, when the Holy Spirit stops convicting us, we need to check ourselves on why are we not bothered by things that should concern us.
- d) Note verse 33, “³³The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.”

- e) Now with that said, there is **HUGE** difference between the Conviction of the Holy Spirit and the Condemnation of the Devil. Let me explain... (Teach)
- f) Remember today that when Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We are Willing to Embrace Discipline rather than Contend Against It!

2) When Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We Refuse to Become Weary of the Lord's Reproof but Treasure It!

- a) 2 Timothy 3:16-17, **“¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”**
- b) Church family, the Scripture is beneficial in many ways to us as followers of Jesus. Thee Scripture teaches us, reproofs us, corrects us, and trains us in the ways of righteousness! Why? In so that we can be complete and equipped unto good works! And with that in mind, we must realize that the Word of God must have its perfect work in us if we intend to do anything that impacts eternity!
- c) Note verse 17, **“¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”**

- d) Friends, we should cherish and treasure the fact that the Lord hasn't given up on us and continues to persevere in patience with us in so that we may be developed and formed unto every good work.
- e) Christian, realize this truth today! That God doesn't waste His time correcting us thus if he is convicting us, then we know that He is leading us. It's when He stops convicting and correcting us is when we need to be concerned. And regrettably, there are those who refuse His correction and their end is destruction.
- f) Romans 1:18-32, ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to

impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

g) Friends, God doesn't ever give up on us but He will ultimately give us what we want when we refuse to follow His direction. Note verse 24, **“²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,**

h) Remember today that when Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We Refuse to Become Weary of the Lord's Reproof but Treasure It!

3) When Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We see the Love of the Father in His correction of Us!

a) The Book of Hebrews 12:3-11, **“³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate**

children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

- b) The fact that the Lord loves us is the very reason He is willing to invest His time in coaching us; and sometimes the same test keeps being served because we've not yet learned to pass it by doing things His way and not our own.
- c) Note verse 8, “⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”
Church family, the Lord correcting us our sign of assurance that we are Sons and not illegitimate children. He calls us His own therefore He corrects us because we are His Own.
- d) How many of us have had to go through the same test multiple times before we finally realized that the issue was that we have yet to do it His way and not demand our own.
- e) Remember today that when Holy Habits begin to Form in Our Lives, We see the Love of the Father in His correction of Us!