

When Faith Isn't Fun: Discipline

February 1, 2026

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up. 4 In struggling against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, do not take the Lord's discipline lightly or lose heart when you are reproved by him, 6 for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives. 7 Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline — which all receive — then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. 11 No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

God's Discipline: Our Heavenly Father's Loving Use of Hardships For Our Good.

- 1. God's purpose in discipline is perfection, not punishment.** Discipline's single purpose is to help us conquer sin like Christ.
- 2. Every hardship we experience is from God.** The supremacy of God's sovereignty over everything in our lives is difficult to embrace but essential for our joy.
- 3. Love is God's only motive.** Our pain is not the result of God's indifference or anger, but of his love.
- 4. We should embrace God's discipline, not avoid it.** Like Christ, let's anticipate the joy that lies ahead of us!