

STORMS OF LIFE / THE STORM OF CRITICISM

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 / PASTOR BEN MOORE

Text: Acts 28:1-5 (NIV)

How To Handle Criticism Correctly

1. _____ if the Criticism is Destructive or Constructive.

“If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise.” Proverbs 15:31 (NLT)

“An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a friend are better than many kisses from an enemy. As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.” Proverbs 27:5-6 & 17 (NLT)

2. Try to Stay Emotionally and Physically _____.

“Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. ‘I have had enough, LORD,’ he said. ‘Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.’” 1 Kings 19:3-4 (NIV)

3. Ignore the _____ and _____ of the Crowd.

“The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and decided he was a god.” Acts 28:6 (NLT)

4. _____ All Achievers Have Been Criticized.

“For John the Baptist didn't drink wine and he often fasted, and you say, ‘He's demon possessed.’ And I, the Son of Man, feast and drink, and you say, ‘He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of the worst sort of sinners!’ But wisdom is shown to be right by what results from it.” Matthew 11:18-19 (NLT)

5. Live For an _____ of _____.

“What about me? Have I been faithful? Well, it matters very little what you or anyone else thinks. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point.” 1 Corinthians 4:3 (NLT)

“My conscience is clear, but that isn't what matters. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.” 1 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

“So be careful not to jump to conclusions before the Lord returns as to whether or not someone is faithful. When the Lord comes, he will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. And then God will give to everyone whatever praise is due.” 1 Corinthians 4:5 (NLT)

6. _____ God to _____ and Protect You.

“It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today.” 2 Samuel 16:12 (NIV)

“I am surrounded by fierce lions who greedily devour human prey – whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and whose tongues cut like swords.” Psalm 57:4 (NLT)

“He will send help from heaven to save me, rescuing me from those who are out to get me. My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.” Psalm 57:3 (NLT)

“Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this violent storm is past. I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.” Psalm 57:1-2 (NLT)

Going Deeper:

- Why do you think people are often quicker to criticize than to encourage, and how might this reflect deeper spiritual issues in their own lives?
- In what ways does our physical and emotional health affect our ability to respond correctly to criticism rather than react defensively?
- Do you have friends who love you enough to offer constructive criticism that sharpens you, and have you made it clear that you welcome this kind of honest feedback?
- Reflecting on your own life, are there areas where you have become chronically critical of others, and what might God be inviting you to heal or surrender in those places?