

Book of Hebrews Part 51: 12:5-8; Do Not Despise the Chastening of the Lord (4/25/2020)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/jwjwrsw/book-of-hebrews-part-51>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are going to go back to Hebrews chapter 12 which we started covering last week. We are going to pick up in Hebrews 12:5—**And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons...** There's another way we can read this; one that leaves quite a bit of an impression, if you will, and that is if it were to say, "And you no longer believe the exhortation which speaks to you as sons."

Think about that because what I just said is exactly what the writer is conveying. He is conveying the exact same idea. So when he says, "You have forgotten the Word of God," when you have forgotten that, is to say you've walked away from God. I can show you many places in scripture, the Torah, such as Deuteronomy 8, that would depict that reality. When you forget God, when you have totally forsaken His word and are walking away, understand this is a faith problem. You have a faith problem. When you are walking away from God, you have a belief issue.

So if you're to say you no longer believe the exhortation, you no longer believe the word of God, that is what is happening here. This is the writer's concern.

I'm going to tell you this: if I believe Yeshua is coming back to get the righteous and to judge the wicked, if I believe He's going to eternally destroy the sinner, and the sinner is going to be seen as His enemy, and it's going to be a horrific destruction, if I believe that, it provokes me to behave a certain way. It provokes me into righteousness. It provokes me to obey Him and to call upon the name of Yeshua. It provokes me to confess sin. This is what it does if I believe. But if I stop believing in His word, do you know where I am going? I am going to the world. I am going to take on the world's value system: their likes and their dislikes. That's what will happen to me.

Think about venture capitalists who want to invest in companies to get a great return on their investment. They are only going to invest in companies whose projected growth is off the charts. If that is so, then venture capitalists will invest because they believe this company is going to do well. It provokes them to act. But if they do not believe that a company is going to do well, they will do nothing. They will not invest in that company.

So this is what I'm saying as we look at this verse; it's a faith issue. We have a real issue of faith. For those who don't believe the exhortation, they're the ones who are going to the wayside.

So the writer says in Hebrews 12:5—**You've forgotten the exhortation** [You no longer believe] **which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him.** So the writer sends out this warning in regard to the chastening of the LORD.

Now why would he need to send out a warning? Because when you have forgotten the exhortation, it's going to be the most radical, life-altering change or experience you've ever had. You will know pain and suffering. This is not going to be some unmemorable event. This is something that's going to leave a scar you will not soon forget because this is what happens when God gets into your world.

The key thing is how are you going to respond when the Lord begins to chasten you, and He flips your world upside down? Do you give in to discouragement? Do you give in to the hatred and the resentment the enemy wants you to buy into trying to get you to believe this is the Lord's fault. He's going to try to get you to turn against the Lord.

I think about the concept of discipline and suffering. This is not a concept the world has been able to accept. There are atheists, humanists, secularists, and agnostics across the board who will tell you flat out if God inflicts pain and makes people suffer, He's not a God they want to serve. Their actual view is He is a hateful, evil God; when in fact the whole purpose of the pain, suffering, and Him inflicting this chastisement is so we can be instructed by it. So we can learn from it and be saved because God is not willing that any should perish. So this is what the writer is trying to get across. This is the response he wants. He wants us to respond properly and to be instructed by the chastening of the Lord.

I want to open up today by taking you to 11 Maccabees. This story, or at least bits and pieces of it, should be fresh in your mind. We have this Antichrist figure, Antiochus Epiphanes, who rises to power. Arrogance and evil grew strong in authority, and it started to cover the land. He laid waste to the Jewish people. There were forced conversions and mass deaths. In fact, the deaths that are recorded and what they did to the Jewish people are some of the most atrocious things you've ever heard in your life. It is one of the most horrifying moments in the history of Israel. This is the backdrop.

In 11 Maccabees, in light of all the horrific things that happened to the men, women, and children of that time, there is something the writer wants us to learn. This is mind-blowing.

This is what we read in 11 Maccabees 6:12—**Now I urge those who read this book not to be depressed by such calamities** (Now keep in mind this is the guy who is going into detail about what they did to these people. This was horrific, right? And he tells them he doesn't want them to be depressed by that. That is a tough pill to swallow. It is kind of like you almost want to respond, "How am I not going to be depressed by this story? This looks terrifying!), **but to recognize that these punishments were designed not to destroy but to discipline our people.**

So again, this is a concept the world cannot understand without faith in the Lord. Without biblical conviction of righteousness, it is not something they can get their heads wrapped around. Yet the writer knowing of these events and what happened tells us, "You need to understand this was about discipline and not about destroying us even though many were destroyed."

He recognizes the goodness of God, and yes, he recognizes it was discipline. Yet the discipline has a purpose, and we see that as we continue in 11 Maccabees 6:16—**Therefore He never withdraws His mercy from us.**

Ultimately, that is the purpose of the discipline. It is salvation, and this is such a beautiful truth and promise. He never takes His mercy away. But again, guess what you're going to have to do? You're going to have to believe it. You have to have faith even in the midst of the most unimaginable hell being unleashed. The type of faith where you and I are never forgetting that God's mercy is forever.

How many times do we read that in the Psalms? It's over and over and over again. So it is the Lord telling us not to forget it.

He goes on to say this in 11 Maccabees 6:16-17—**Although He disciplines us with calamities, He does not forsake his own people.** ¹⁷ **Let what we have said serve as a reminder;** (Emphasis added).

Does this sound familiar? Doesn't this sound exactly like what the writer of Hebrews said? Yes, because that's exactly the point he was trying to get across, "Listen to this. You're forgetting the exhortation that speaks to His sons. Don't be discouraged; don't despise the Lord." Then he goes on in the very next verse and says, "Because whom the Lord loves He chastens." That very message is being said here, and we need to take it with us. This was one of the most horrifying times in history, and we need to remember everything that he has just conveyed about discipline.

Proverbs 20:30—**Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.** It doesn't say: blows that tickle or gentle blows like these will cleanse away evil or help you turn from your wicked ways. No! It says—**hurt**. They are excruciatingly painful; they are terrifying. The experience goes to your very heart in consideration. That's when it begins to purge out the filth; that's when the idols you've set over the Lord and the priorities that are all screwed up start to come back in. That is when you start to tear down those idols and begin to understand what is really important. That is when you start to value the things of God. These are God's values and not what the world values.

Psalm 78:34—**When He slew them, then they sought Him; And they returned and sought earnestly for God.** This is God doing the slaying. Here's the deal: only when people start dying, only when people are starting to be afflicted and tormented, and curses and judgments of God start falling upon them, that is when they say, "Oh, wait a second. I think we need to turn back to the Lord. I think we need to seek Him." This is because the reality, the natural inclination, of the flesh, is to do what? It is to run to the world. Unless that's in check, because sometimes it needs to be put in check, we will go to our death in our sin following the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. That's when horrific discipline comes in.

Paul say this in Romans 5:3-4—**And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.** Again, this is a bizarre concept. We are to glory in the tribulation because what is it doing is purifying us. We need that purification. It is only when we're hurled into affliction and curses of God are falling upon us, and we are feeling great pain and suffering, that we have the moment of clarity where we can just step back and go, "Oh, I forgot how frail and fragile I really am, and how I can't survive this world apart from Yeshua. I

need Him. I need to be following my Shepherd. I need to be listening to His voice. I need to be with Him because only then is there security.”

It is one thing for the world to take out their vengeance on you, but I'll tell you right now: it is another thing for the Lord to come after you. That's the most terrifying thing, and yet it's the most beautiful thing because it's what gives us life.

A Leonard Ravenhill quote worth sharing—[You can't develop character by reading books. You develop it from conflict.](#) Think about those words because they're biblically true. You don't develop character simply by reading the Bible. You're going to develop real character by going to hell and back. That's where you're going to get the character.

Again, we have Paul in Romans 5 where he says— [tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.](#) How is character developed? Where did all of this begin? From tribulation, pain, anguish, affliction, and suffering. That is when you develop amazing character.

Some of the most amazing people you will meet in your life are the people who had the most tragic childhoods. They were beaten and mistreated. These are some of the most amazing people on planet earth today. There are several people I have in mind as I think about this. Some of them have gone on to be ministers, and some of them have gone on to be some of the most influential people in Christianity. It is really an amazing thing. What they went through developed them. And the respect they have for other people, the love they have for other people, and the clarity of mind regarding what is important comes through unspeakable pain. Yet the silver spoon children who get everything they want and weren't disciplined, their life is a train wreck. Oftentimes, their lives are a living hell as they get older. It is a scary reality.

One of my favorite Psalms on this topic is Psalm 119:71—[It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.](#) Obviously, the psalmist sees the beauty and the power of God's correction. God's correction saved his life. This is what he is declaring. He says, “It was good for me to experience all that pain and suffering.” And what was the goal? It was for him to “learn Your statutes.” For him to learn the commandments of God so he would walk in them.

The natural inclination of the flesh is to walk away. It will never walk to the Lord; it will never walk in His commandments. It hates Him. That is why the war is so vicious between the Spirit and the flesh. The Spirit is willing; the flesh is weak. These are contrary to one another, so you don't do the things that you desire. I think most of you can appreciate this: it is a daily battle for us.

So, what the Psalmist states when he says—[It is good for me that I have been afflicted](#)—is so powerful. Then he says in Psalm 119:67—[Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.](#)

This is the psalmist, and this guy's been recorded for millions of people to read. Millions upon millions over thousands of years. Think about that. And he is being open and transparent about his own life saying, “Guess what guys? I'd have never made it unless the Lord really got involved in my world and hit me with serious affliction and with serious pain. I would have just kept walking on into the world to my death. Make no mistake: there is no difference between him and us today. In other words, if the Lord

doesn't get involved in our world, and we do not respond to His chastening in the way we need to respond to it, we are going to go off a cliff. The way the Lord keeps us in line is the chastening and the discipline.

So—**Before he was afflicted he went astray, but now (he) keeps (His) word.** Over and over that's the goal. The goal is to walk in the commandments of God. When you walk in the commandments of God, you are in effect in a healthy relationship with the Lord. That's why Yeshua says—**If you love Me, keep My commandments** (John 14:15). And it says in 1 John 2:3-4—**Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His Commandments. ⁴He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**

So this is about relationship, and this is the basis of the relationship. This is how we test our relationship to know if we are in good standing with Yeshua. If we are not keeping His commandments and doing what He says, we're in rough shape. If that is the case, perhaps you should be looking for, even praying for, some discipline.

I want to take you to the Book of Nehemiah 9:28—**But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore, You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them....** (Emphasis added).

Think about that. The writer of Nehemiah is conveying the exact same thing the psalmist in Psalms 119 just conveyed. You can come to a place of complacency, and what he's talking about here is Israel was brought into the Promised Land, and they were given peace. You can read this in Solomon's dedication prayer to the first Temple. He said, "You fulfilled Your promise; You've given Your people rest." That was until about 722 BC when Israel got hit by Assyria. They were wiped out as a nation because of their sin. In 586 BC, even ten years before that, Babylon came up against Judah and wipes out Jerusalem and the Temple.

So the writer recognizes they had rest; they were fine, but then they got comfortable in their faith. They began to compromise and started to look out at the other nations. They started to integrate with the world and worship false gods. They started to get acclimated to compromise; sin no longer came with conviction because they were looking at things with eyes of flesh. They were not walking by faith; they were walking by sight.

It is interesting to me how easy it is to veer off until we feel a little bit of pain. And in the Nehemiah verse it says—**You left them in the hand of their enemies.** That is striking total terror against His people. It's interesting how pain and suffering becomes an instrument of awakening. It is the very instrument which brings us into repentance. It is an awesome thought.

Ecclesiastes 7:3 says—**Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better.** If you're to ask an agnostic or someone in the world such as an atheist, secularist, or humanist, they will tell you laughter is better than sorrow. This is why the Bible seems bizarre and doesn't make any sense to most people. It makes no sense. The world believes laughter is the greatest medicine.

However, when you read scripture, we are told the greatest purifier, the greatest medicine, for the heart is pain and suffering. It is better than laughter because it makes the heart better. It purifies the heart. It is only when we're broken, when we're devastated, that pain produces power over the flesh.

For whatever reason, our laughter and peace brings us into a sleepy mode sometimes. The flesh has this ability to gain strength. This is one of the reasons Paul was fasting often in order to afflict his flesh. He did this constantly because the natural inclination is to get sucked up into the world. So to self inflict pain through fasting is a fantastic way to stay on top of your flesh.

Then of course when you're kind of walking off a cliff on your own, then the Lord is going to come into your world and hit you, and I pray that happens because that's going to save your life. Those who He chastens are those whom He loves.

Going 2 Corinthians 7:10, Paul says this—**For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted.** (Emphasis added).

This is the very same thing the writer of Hebrews said in Chapter 12 as he was quoting Proverbs 3, don't despise the chastening of the Lord. When we get pain and sorrow in our heart, you need to retain it because it has power over the flesh. It has power over addictions and bondages you haven't been able to break. The pain of the Lord has the ability to break those things. When He gets in your world and hits you with terror and fear, this can get you to overcome those things. It is an awesome thing! That, then, brings you into a place of repentance which leads to salvation. So obviously, this is not something we would want to regret.

Paul says 1 Corinthians 11:32—**But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.**

So everywhere you look in Scripture, we just keep seeing the same principle popping up. It obviously made a vast impression on Paul just in the way he utilizes it and taps into it on multiple occasions. We could look at other writers as well, such as James, but you can see how vital it is. This is so we won't be condemned with the world.

Over and over it's God's love being poured out into us. And again, I'll remind you that as you're going through it, and it is a hard pill to swallow, the Lord loves you and does this because you have the enemy constantly whispering in your ear saying, "See, if God loved you, you wouldn't have to go through this. If God cared about you, you wouldn't be suffering." That is not the truth.

You may be in a situation right now where you are greatly suffering. You may be on death's door, and you may have gotten really bad news recently. That's when you need to step back and allow the Lord to purify your heart. You need to allow the power of sorrow (because sorrow is better than laughter) to cleanse the heart and it will make the heart better.

Do you know what it will do? It will give you perspective. It has an unbelievable way of giving you perfect clarity; this beautiful clarity regarding what's important and what's not important. What you should value, and what you should not value, all coming from the instrument of pain. Who would have thought this?

With that said, I want to take you back to the Book of Nehemiah. There's an idea expressed there that is, I believe, vital to this whole topic. In this verse we really get to see the proper attitude, the proper response, to the chastening of the Lord.

The backdrop for this is when you go to Nehemiah 8, we find Israel has come back into the land. It is the Feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah. Obviously, this is a powerful time. They hear the Torah being read; they hear the word of the Lord spoken, and it absolutely overcomes them. They are so moved by the words of the Lord that it moves them to weep. They are weeping as they listen to these words.

Again, think about what it says in Hebrews 4:12—**The Word of God is living and powerful.** It is living and powerful! These men and women who had come back from captivity had heard the word. They felt the power in their hearts, and then it caused them to weep. This is an awesome moment for them where they're cut to the heart. Conviction is setting in. Godly sorrow is doing the job based upon hearing the word of the Lord.

Then we come to Nehemiah 9:1—**Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.** They are feeling it. The mighty word of the Lord is doing its job. Now they are fasting and wearing sackcloth.

Nehemiah 9:2—**Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.** This is what repentance looks like. The text says they immediately started separating from foreigners. Why would they do that? Because they heard the Torah, and the Torah says they were to be separated from the nations. Immediately upon hearing the word of the Lord, they're grabbing hold of it. To me, that is power! They're confessing sin; this whole event is just marvelous.

Nehemiah 9:3—**And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.**

So obviously, they're in a real place of brokenness. In their brokenness, they are going to convey something within this confessional prayer that is huge. This is something you need to remember. It is one of the most important things you need to walk away with. You need to have this in your heart so when you're being chastened by the Lord, you don't get led off a cliff by the adversary.

Nehemiah 9:32—**...Do not let all the trouble seem small before You That has come upon us, Our kings and our princes, Our priests and our prophets, Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.**

This is amazing because what the writer is saying is like, "Lord, look at what You have done. Look at the discipline and the chastening we have experienced. You took out the Northern Kingdom; You took out Israel and Jerusalem. You even took out Babylon. Keep in mind these people were the captives who were brought back from Babylon to Jerusalem. And now they are saying, "Don't think, Lord, what You have done is a small thing." So they are pleading with Him.

Then we read in Nehemiah 9:33—**However, You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.**

Right there is the special treasure I mentioned to you that you need to unearth out of Scripture. This is one of the most important things you will ever pray in your life when you're in the midst of trial and

tribulation, and you're in the midst of being disciplined by the Lord. It is horrific, and you've got the enemy whispering in your ear telling you, "Walk away from God. What kind of God would you serve Who is making you suffer like this"? When you are at a point your flesh wants to give up and you want to give into discouragement, this is where you need to go. This is the heart you need to have if you want to be restored, if you want to come back into the kingdom. If you want to be the man or woman God created you to be, this needs to be the prayer you come to.

No matter what you're facing, what illness you're up against, or what calamities are following you, you can go back to the Lord and say, "Lord, you are just; in everything that I am experiencing right now, I justify you, and I condemn myself." There is so much power in that prayer. There is so much truth, reality, and humility in that.

I get excited when I read something like this. I value prayer, but when you incorporate radical principles in the Word of God that result in bearing fruit in your life, and you start incorporating those principles into your prayer life where you start praying the word, watch out! That's power. That's an immense amount of power!

So I look at this attitude, and this is the attitude we have to have when we get hurled into affliction. Amen? When you have this attitude, you are positioning yourself for success. There is no question about it.

I love what David says in Psalm 103:9-10—**He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.** Clearly David is referencing the chastisement of the LORD. Then he says this—¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.** (Emphasis added).

Again, I love this! Look at the heart of David. This is a guy who despite falling into horrific sin still carried the right attitude. Believe me, David was chastised by the LORD. If you want to understand what it means to be disciplined by the LORD, go read his story. The LORD unleashed hell on him, and he never forgot it. Again, this is something he would not soon forget. Yeah, it was over; and yet in all of that, here you have David who can come back and say, "He has not dealt with us according to our sins."

That blows my mind! That is speaking from a pure heart. It is a heart which is cleansed of all the leaven, all the sin. To be able to say that is just an awesome thing.

So whatever we're going through, and you may be in some serious stuff right now, as you go back to prayer and humble yourself before God and say, "God, everything that's happening right now, if this is your hand and your discipline, I deserve worse. I glorify you! I justify your name, and I condemn myself." You know, what all of us deserve is death, period. We don't even deserve chastening; we don't deserve discipline. We deserve to be destroyed. The wages of sin is death. That is what we deserve.

So when we can bring this godly, humble, and contrite attitude into our prayer life in the midst of hell, trial, and tribulation, I'm telling you this is so powerful. This is where you want to land in those moments.

A great example is Job. He is worthy to bring up as an example. Job knows a thing or two. This is a guy who lost everything, in a moment, including his children. Then he himself was in excruciating pain and suffering in his own body as the adversary, the devil, afflicted him.

We read in Job 2:9—**Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"** I bring this up because this is what the adversary is going to do in the midst of your trials and tribulations. This verse gets into the aspect of what the writer of Hebrews is talking about in the twelfth chapter of Hebrews. He tells us, "Don't despise the chastening of the Lord. Don't fall into that trap and don't be discouraged."

Now let me be clear. Job is not being chastened or disciplined for sin. This is a different situation, but I want to look at how Job handled this because Job isn't going to give in to this. He is the ultimate example. He had not done anything wrong. How much more should we want to follow Job's example when we are rightfully disciplined, and we deserve much more. So that makes what we're reading now much heavier and more applicable.

So here you see HaSatan speaking through Job's wife saying, "It is time to curse God and die. You have lost. What is the point of holding fast to integrity? There is no point. Just give in to the hatred. Give in to the flesh."

Then we read Job's response in Job 2:10—**But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.** (Emphasis added).

I think this is just amazing! What a beautiful example of responding to the chastening and the discipline of the Lord when He's trying to bring us home, because we've walked away from Him. We have put up idols in our hearts and followed the love of the world more than we've followed Yeshua. This is a beautiful response. This is awesome! We should accept the good and the adversity from God.

So, Job is an example of a broken heart and a broken spirit. This is what breaks the Lord's heart. This is what it is about. It is about getting to the heart of Yeshua and breaking His heart. And this is how we do it.

I can tell you there are times my kids come to me and ask specific things like daddy this or daddy that or whatever. There are times where they lay it on thick, and they can break daddy's heart probably a little bit more than even mommies'. But whatever it is, I'm going to do it because they'll speak to my heart. There are times my girls will speak to my wife's heart, and my wife will radically do something for them and make something happen. She's concerned about making sure their desires are going to be met because of how they're behaving or how they're asking.

We must remember how we approach the Lord is going to make a night and day difference regarding your future. It is life and death. So I need to emphasize that point.

Look at what Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 10:24—**O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.** What a prayer! It hit me when I looked at my notes. I've had notes on this subject for over 10 years. While reading this verse again, what struck me is how many times have I

prayed for the correction, discipline, and for the chastening of the Lord? I can say: not a lot. We need to have the heart of Jeremiah.

This is also the heart of David. It makes it very clear in Psalm 19: 12-13 where David is asking the LORD to, ¹²...**Cleanse me from secret faults.** ¹³**Keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins...** In essence, David is saying, "Whatever it takes, keep me from these things." David is willing to go through whatever he had to in order to be kept from sin, and this is what Jeremiah is praying and conveying.

As we talk about the chastening of the Lord, I think this is something we need to pray for if it is needed. Now certainly I don't want to go through it because I know when the Lord gets involved, it's going to be painful. I don't want to go through that unless it's necessary. And if it's necessary, then let it rip because I don't want to spend an eternity in hell.

Now I want to take some time and bring this thing full circle. I want to begin by taking you to Hosea 6:1—**Come, and let us return to the LORD; for He has torn....** (Emphasis added). So we are clearly looking at a disciplinary situation. This is the LORD's chastisement coming against His people. You can see there's a call of repentance: we're suffering now; we're being afflicted; He has torn us badly, so come let us return to the LORD.

What is the next thing Hosea says? Hosea 6:1—**...but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.** (Emphasis added). That is hope! That is what it is about!

So, what's the point of repentance? Is it just to repent and walk in God's commands when it doesn't really mean anything? No! It refers to blessing, honor, hope, and everlasting life. All these things are involved. These are things Satan wants to blind you to.

This is an aspect to all of this which has to happen. Yes, the Lord will tear, but He will heal. We have to have hope. If you're suffering right now, and tribulation and calamity have befallen you, you need hope. You need to believe in that hope. You must have faith in it because if you don't, you will give in to the discouragement, and you will give in to despising, resenting, and hating the Lord even though we deserve so much worse.

I love this passage because it rounds everything out. Yeah, He has torn, but you know if we just return to the LORD, He will restore you as He restored Job and Israel many times over because of their repentance. He extended King Hezekiah's life as he prostrated himself and called upon the name of the LORD. There was hope for him. And that was even after the LORD Himself said, "You're done. Get your house in order; your days are over." Hezekiah cried out to the LORD and prostrated himself to the LORD, and the LORD's heart was broken. That is such an awesome thing!

So, as we look at this, it is a scriptural promise for us now.

With that being said, let me jump to Psalm 107. I can tell you Psalm 107 is one of the most comprehensive passages on the matter. It completely covers all the dimensions we really need to focus on in regard to the chastening of the Lord, yet also in regard to the hope that is there.

Psalm 107:10-11—**Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons....**This is a hellish scenario, right? They are afflicted, they're bound, they can't go anywhere. There's no escape here. They're in the shadow of death, and why are they there? I love what it says! Listen to what it says as the verse continues— ¹¹ **Because they rebelled against the words of God, and despised the counsel of the Most High.** (Emphasis added).

So over and over we keep seeing this: you'll be blessed if you keep My commandments, and you'll be cursed if you don't. You will receive the full weight and measure of His wrath, judgment, and of His cursing when you walk away from Him. So when we rebel against the words of God, expect affliction to abound. Expect the shadow of death.

Psalm 107:12—**Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; They fell down, and there was none to help.**

Again, you need to feel the weight of the chastening of the Lord. As I mentioned before, when the Lord gets into your world, and He starts afflicting you, there will be no one else to help you. He will ensure that whatever you're dealing with is incurable. He will ensure there is no solution to your problem. He will ensure there's no other man who can come and fix your problem. That terrifies me! So, when you get into the chasing of Lord, this is how it goes.

To build on this, we are going to go to the book of Deuteronomy as it talks about the chastening of the Lord and what this looks like. This is what we read in Deuteronomy 28:27—**The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.** (Emphasis added). There will be no medicines for you when He comes into your world and rains judgment on you.

Continuing in Deuteronomy 28:29—**And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.** (Emphasis added).

No one is going to help you. There's no hope for you by anyone else.

Deuteronomy 28:35—**The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.** (Emphasis added).

The point being made in the psalmist's words in Psalm 107:12, is that the Lord knows how to bring down your heart. He knows how to destroy it—**Therefore He brought down their heart with labor; they fell down, and there was none to help.** (Emphasis added).

When you're in that kind of despair, there's only one answer. He tells us this in the next verse in Psalm 107:13—**Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses.** This is the only hope we have.

So looking at this, there are not many ways to fix the problem of God's chastening, discipline, trials, and all the commotions of the tribulations coming to your life. There is one solution, and it is to turn your heart back to Yeshua; to give your heart fully to Him. To humble yourself, prostrate yourself, and to

embrace repentance and turn back. That will break His heart. He will hear your cry. That is a scriptural promise.

This is what we need to focus on in the moment when we're in the valley of the shadow of death. During the times the enemy is picking you apart and feasting on you; when it is one thing after another, and you are in complete despair. It is at these times we need to remember there is hope and a way out of this. There is hope for us. We have to return to Him. We need to purge all the filth and all the iniquity out of our heart and run to Yeshua.

I love the promises of God that when we screw up, that's not the end of it. There is hope for us.

Psalm 107:14-16—**He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.** ¹⁵ **Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!** ¹⁶**For He has broken the gates of bronze, and cut the bars of iron in two.**

Now put all this together. We just read when the chastening of the Lord comes, there is going to be no one who can help you. It will be hopeless because you'll be in situations in which no one can help you. It will be completely hopeless.

But wait a second! That is not true because with God all things are possible. We can look at the verse we just read and see He will do the impossible. We can't cut the bars of bronze; we don't have that ability, but Yeshua does. So whatever affliction, such as the strongest of the strongest demons coming against people, or addictions coming against people, there is hope for them if we follow this formula; if we follow what God has laid out in His Scripture, His instructions. If we turn to Him with the right attitude where we justify Him and condemn ourselves. If we turn from our iniquity and sin and cry out to the name of Yeshua, He will come and bust down those prison doors. He will set the captive free.

This is the power and the mercy of our Lord which can't be broken. Yeshua will break down those doors. I promise you. But again, you have to believe. It always comes back to faith. If you don't have faith, if you don't believe, you will not come back to repentance. You will continue to rebel.

I'm going to tell you right now; ears that hear the rebuke of life will abide among the wise. If you're not that person, the alternative is you will go to your death. And you may be thinking you're taking Jesus with you, but if you have not humbled yourself and given every facet of your heart to Him, do not think He's coming to help you. He will not settle for you putting Him in the back seat. He is not going to settle for second place as you continue to put other things that you think are more important than Him before Him. That is not going to happen.

So we have to believe the totality of what He's telling us. We have to believe the totality of His word. When you actually believe it, here's the little secret: it will provoke you to actually do it. You will walk it out. It will mean something to you. You know it has power because of that faith.

Moving on to Psalm 107:17—**Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted.** This is twice this has been stated. It's circling back. It is saying this twice for emphasis, reminding us this is what happens. The definition of a fool, biblically, is one who walks away from God. So they walk away from Him, and then what happens? They are afflicted.

Then it says this in Psalm 107:18—**Their soul abhorred all manner of food, And they drew near to the gates of death.** This is actually describing a situation that is hellish: their soul abhorring all manner of food?

Think about what we're supposed to take away from that. Typically, food gives our body great comfort and great satisfaction. If nothing else, for a time. But when you are disciplined by the Lord, nothing works. Nothing is going to comfort you. You will be agitated and afflicted on every side until you humble yourself before the Lord. He does this because of His love; it's not because He hates you. It is because you're stubborn and rebellious; and we've all given in to rebellion at some point in our life. We all struggle with it.

Let's look at Psalm 39:11—**When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; surely every man is vapor. Selah.** So, when the Lord makes your beauty melt away, when He brings you low with disciplinary action and humbles you. At that moment you realize you are nothing. It is then you realize you are so small, and God is so big.

Again, when you are receiving the discipline of the Lord, you gain perspective. All of the sudden you have clarity that comes when in fact you are receiving the rebuke. The discipline of the Lord is a beautiful thing.

I added Psalm 39:11 because it goes with Psalm 107:18 which says—**Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.** Then you read Psalm 39:11 where there is this plea and cry, "Get me out of the shadow of death. Get me out of this affliction. Help me!"

Continuing in Psalm 107:19—**Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.** Again, I want to emphasize this is twice he says it. So, He takes us through this situation: you sin, you get chastised, but then you turn back to the LORD, you cry out to Him, there is salvation, restoration, and total hope for you. There is this beautiful hope waiting for us.

Moving to Psalm 107:20—**He [God] sent His Word....** We know Who that is. It is Yeshua—**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.** (John 1:14). **In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.** (John 1:1). This is Yeshua. He is the Word of God. So, Psalm 107:20 says—**He sent His word and healed them....**

Looking at Isaiah 53:5—**...by His stripes we are healed.** That is the truth. Psalm 107:20—**...and delivered them from their destructions.** There's no other name we can call upon by which we must be saved but the name Yeshua.

Psalm 107:21-22—**Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness [Thank you Father for sending Yeshua!], And for His wonderful works to the children of men! ²²Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, And declare His works with rejoicing.** (Emphasis added).

We need to declare His works. We need to declare His word especially when you're in the time of trial and tribulation. As I mentioned before that's when you start praying the word with faith in your heart. When you believe it, watch what happens. There will be a radical transformation. Things you're up

against, which you can't handle, God can handle. He put these things there so you would run to Him. This is so amazing!

Psalm 119:107—I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O LORD.... In other words, bring me back to life. Again, he is at death's door. He is pleading, "Please, oh God. Revive me." How? ...according to Your word.

You can go all over scripture, and it just keeps coming back to His word. You know that Eve was taken out of the garden because she stopped believing in God's Word, and instead she believed the lie. We have to learn from these examples in Scripture.

In conjunction with Psalm 119:107, is Psalm 119:49—Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope.

Here again is a powerful lesson. When we get in these situations where we are afflicted, then we go to the word and say, "Lord, You said if I would come to You, if I would repent, humble myself, justify You, condemn myself, confess my sins, and turn from my wicked way, You would hear me. This is Your word, Lord. This is what You said.

This is part of the prayer you're going to want to pray when you're in the depths. If you pray this out of a pure heart, out of brokenness and sadness knowing how far you've gone from the Lord by sinning, when you have that brokenness, I'm telling you, there is so much power.

I love these kinds of sermons we have had the last few weeks. We need to fear; we need to understand the reality of the affliction, but we need to have hope. We need to understand how to get it. We need to understand how to be successful and to understand that no matter what situation we're in there is hope. It is not impossible.

The fact you may be presented with something which is incurable because it is telling you that you need to turn back to God. You can pray prayers like, "Lord, remove Your plague from me for I am consumed by the blow of Your hand." You can pray the word in an amazing way.

Going back to Hebrews 12:5-6—And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

May the Lord remind you of this biblical truth in the time of your tribulation. Whom the Lord loves He chastens. It is a badge of honor.

You know, there have been amazing articles written about how discipline is so healthy. The articles discuss how children respond and feel the love of a parent who's involved in their world and does take the time to discipline them. There is a bond which happens, and so it's critical.

But how much more with our Father? How much more, when He is chastening us, are we supposed to recognize this is a thing of love and not a thing of hate? Look at Yeshua in Revelation 3:19—As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. We are to be zealous because of the love He has for us.

Hebrews 12:7-8—If (if is the key thing) **you endure chastening** (If you do not give in to discouragement. If you do not despise the Lord. If you don't turn your back on Him. If you don't continue to rebel and say I'm done with this; I'm going to do it my way.), **God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?** ⁸**But if you are without chastening,** (and that means not getting disciplined by the Lord or refusing the discipline of the Lord) **of which all have become partakers...**

Isn't that interesting? That is why I say this topic is for everyone. This isn't like one of the parts of the Bible which really doesn't apply to you. This is the part of the Bible that applies to everyone. Every one of us is going to experience the disciplinary action of the Lord. We are going to experience the chastisement because we're in flesh. The natural course of the flesh is to walk away, but we have a loving Father Who is not going to let us go very far.

But again, do you recognize that, or do you continue to say, "I don't care what I'm experiencing"? Unfortunately, I've literally seen the Lord come against people and discipline them while they are in sin, and they don't hear it.

It is like you're reading the Book of Leviticus or the book of Deuteronomy where it says, "If you don't turn back, I am coming at you seven times harder." Yet they just keep going in their sin. They are so stubborn. They are so bent on rebelling against God and so in love with whatever aspect of the world they're in love with that they're not listening. And their lives continue to fall apart. It is unreal when you actually see this happen as I have. It is painful to watch. You are like, "Just give in." And those are the moments which are painful to watch.

I have talked to these specific individuals and told them, "You have got to hear the Lord on this. The Lord is speaking. You need to get out of this sin because, trust me, I can tell you it's going to get worse. The Lord's hand is coming on you; your life's not getting better. It is going to get worse if you don't turn back. Continuing in Hebrews 12:8—**then you are illegitimate and not sons.**

If you do not receive the correction Lord, you are not His.