

The Year of Harvest

Prayer Guide

Week 47

The Year of Harvest – The Fruit of Chastening

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11 (NKJV)



Prayer Focus: The writer of Hebrews is here teaching on the purpose of God's discipline in our lives. In verse eight he says that if we are without God's discipline then we are not really God's children. In verse ten he then goes on to say that the purpose of God's discipline is for our benefit and to build holiness into our lives. Here in verse eleven then, he tells us that the fruit of God's discipline is to produce in us the fruit of righteousness. This righteousness comes to those who are being trained by the disciplines of God in their lives. Whoever desires to participate in any kind of sport or competition must discipline themselves to prepare to compete successfully. Whether it is in the area of athletics or scholastics, or the arts, discipline sharpens our skills, and weeds out the weaknesses or incorrect mannerisms, habits or ways of thinking that hinder us from success. So it is in the spiritual realm and our relationship with God. His disciplines are meant for our good, so that He can sharpen us and tone us, and remove from our lives. Those things that do not lead to righteousness in our lives. Sure, the discipline is most likely unpleasant and difficult, but when we encounter God's discipline we remember that it is for our training, to build up our lives in righteousness, and make us the children of God that He desire for us to be. When you go through God's discipline, do not forget that He disciplines you out of His love for you, and for your good.

Day 1: Read Hebrews eleven and meditate on what the writer says about God's discipline in our lives.

Day 2: Are you going through discipline at this time? What does God want to train or remove or correct in your life?

Day 3: Today thank the Lord for His loving discipline, and purposefully submit to His discipline.

Day 4: Where are the areas of your life that God might want to bring a greater degree of discipline?

Day 5: Pray that your church will guide its members in understanding God's purpose in discipline.

Day 6: Pray that this truth will strengthen other believers in your city for a greater witness for the Lord.

Day 7: Pray for missionaries you know to submit to the disciplines of the Lord in their area of service to the Lord. .