

FOR GREATER GRACE

HEBREWS 12:7-11

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: In Hebrews, discipline or chastening means to correct or to educate in order to conform your life to God's truth. Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, p. 1088. "When we discipline our children, even for something serious, we do not put them out of the family. We discipline them to correct their behavior, not to disown them. Neither does God put us out of his family when he disciplines us, His children." John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews, p. 386. "When God chastises, He is not rejecting but correcting." MacArthur, p. 387.

ENDURE HARDSHIP AS DISCIPLINE. "The word 'endure' is *hupomeno*, literally, 'to remain under.' That is, the recipients of this letter are exhorted to remain under the chastening hand of God, for the purpose of this chastening is disciplinary." Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume II: Hebrews, p. 218. It is not stoicism that the Holy Spirit is trying to develop in my life; but in the hardship of discipline, He draws me into a deeper fellowship with the Lord and a greater dependence on His grace. (**Hebrews 12:7, fn 12:5-11, II Corinthians 12:1-10, fn 12:7, 8, fn 12:9 Romans 8:28, fn 8:28**) *What should you do in your trials and how will you do it?*

SUBMIT TO GOD'S DISCIPLINE by humbling yourself and trusting Jesus. To trust Him is to rest in Him for grace and help I need for each trial that comes into my life. As I humbly submit and rest in Him, God promises that my life will be richer, fuller, and more abundant, even in trying circumstances. (**Hebrews 12:8, 9, I Peter 5:5-10, fn 5:7, fn 5:10, James 4:6-10, fn 4:7-10, Matthew 11:28-30, fn 11:28-30, Hebrews 4:7-11, fn 4:11**) *To live a richer and fuller abundant life, what must you and I do in times of trial in discipline?*

"PROFIT" FROM THE TRAINING OF DISCIPLINE. When I submit to the hardship of discipline, God gives me a "greater" grace to endure. The profit is that I share His holiness, His righteousness, and His peace. (**Hebrews 12:10, 11, fn 12:11, I Peter 1:3-9, fn 1:6, 7, Proverbs 12:1, fn 12:1, James 4:6-10, John 15:1-3, fn 15:2, 3**) *What must you do in hardship to reap a profit?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?