

Our Personal Trainer in the Life of Faith Hebrews 12:4-13

God's discipline _____

God's discipline is about _____

God's goal is not _____, it's about _____

God's discipline is designed to make us into
_____... Righteous and holy people,

God's not trying to _____, he is working to

It's important that _____ with
submission, humility, self-examination, and

For Further Discussion:

Who loves his child more—the father who allows the child to do what will harm him, or the one who corrects, trains, and even punishes the child to help him learn what is right? The answer seems obvious. So why is it hard for us to perceive God's love for us when we experience his discipline?

Can you recall (possibly share) a time when God clearly disciplined you, and the lesson you learned?

People respond to discipline in several ways:

- we can accept it with resignation
- we can accept it with self-pity, thinking we really don't deserve it
- we can be angry and resentful toward God
- we can accept it graciously, letting it accomplish its purpose in us

What is your typical response and how can we move to a healthier one? What is the hardest thing you are going through right now and how is God using this in your life?

Did you know?

- *God provides hope and love in suffering... Romans 5:3-5*
- *Problems can help us trust in God's sovereignty... Romans 8:28-29*
- *Suffering enables us to comfort others... 2 Corinthians 1:3-5*
- *Our eternal reward outweighs our suffering... 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*
- *Problems can open up opportunities for service... Philippians 1:12*
- *Problems may be a confirmation that we are living for Christ... 2 Thessalonians 1:5*
- *Jesus understands what we are going through when we are tested... Hebrews 2:16*
- *Problems help us to mature... James 1:2-4*
- *Trials refine and prove our faith... 1 Peter 1:6-9*

What impact do these verses have on your view of God's discipline and training for the Christian life?

As you think through last week's message, are there any actions or attitudes regarding discipline you want to focus on in the next week?