

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, ‘My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him.” Hebrews 12:5 KJV

None would assume a child in a corner abused, but rather naughty. Most of us understand the lack of discipline is harmful. Undisciplined individuals end up in prison, mental hospitals, or worse, dead! Although seen by the child as cruel, discipline is a loving parent’s protection. It teaches there are consequences to irresponsibility and disobedience. There are disciplines to almost everything we do which must be followed to achieve desired results. For example: There several are ways to get finances to purchase something. We can earn, borrow, or steal them. For our purchase to be unencumbered, only one way is feasible; earn them. Borrowing incurs debt and stealing incurs jeopardy of prison. God says, *“Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.”* Sow crime, reap prison. Sow laziness, reap famine. The type of success achieved depends on what is sown. You could be a successful bank robber until caught. The definition of success is defined by desire. God defines success thusly: *“This Book of the Law (God’s Word) shall not depart out of thy mouth (words begin in thought); but thou shalt meditate (think) therein DAY AND NIGHT, that thou mayest observe to do according to ALL that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have GOOD success. Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (obey God’s Word) and ALL THESE THINGS shall be added unto you.”* If God is my friend, all that He has is available to me, but He only rewards the diligent seeker. What is the lover’s reward? How important is God to you? If your friend always has an excuse for not being with you, you soon realize; they’re not really your friend! Desire drives action and action reveals desire. You can say you’re a believer, but if you never spend time or energy actually obeying Truth, you are a liar. *“He that saith, ‘I know [God],’ and keepeth (obeyeth) not His commandments, IS A LIAR, and the Truth is not in him.”* If deeds do not match words, a liar’s reputation builds and no one trusts you. Why are some your friends and others not! It’s the trust factor. You must know someone to trust them. Can God trust you to learn and respond to His correction? Will you grumble and reject His guidance or graciously accept it? God wants to protect you from evil and save you from death! He sees what you cannot.



God’s gracious hand will often lead,
In paths of grief and painful need,
To guide us to the shores of bliss,
Where we will dwell forever blessed! ~CGP

There is absolutely no view like a mountain top view, but all those who have shared it know there is no easy path to it. Only the diligent reach the summit. In God’s economy, seeking His favor above all else is considered diligence. He knows who seeks Him and who does not. I solidly affirm that you can truly know Eternity’s Sovereign, but you must truly desire to do so! God is not an accessory; He is a necessity! He is not a part of life; He is LIFE!

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the House of the LORD forever.” Psalms 23 KJV

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