

"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons (children); for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."
Hebrews 12:7-8 KJV

God's "timeout chair" is allowing us to reap what we sow to teach us how to behave. Job was severely tried when God allowed Satan to torment him, but Job's trials had a twofold purpose. One was to prove the invincibility of his faith and to teach Job things he needed to know. Our troubles are either a direct result of ministry, disobedience, or ignorance. God is either correcting, teaching, or using us to minister. I was hospitalized with a life threatening, excruciatingly painful, bowel rupture which went undiagnosed until exploratory surgery. I just wanted to die, but I prayed to God for deliverance of His choosing. After surgery, two days later, a nurse who had cared for me on a previous visit for my second stroke, came up two floors and found me. As we fellowshipped, I was able to ease her mind and strengthen her faith from God's Word. At that moment, I realized that I was there to encourage and comfort her. She had been praying for wisdom and God sent me to minister His Word to her. If I had been promptly diagnosed, I would not have been there when she came on duty, two days later. I had initially thought I was being chastised. I accepted it and asked God to reveal His purpose to me. Two days later He did. Always go to God for guidance. David said he would rely on God's mercy and wisdom even after he sinned with Bathsheba. He put his life in the hands of the God he adored and still trusted God after God took their son for he said, "*While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.*" Only supreme faith could so affirm! We may abide secure in this fact: No matter the circumstance that threatens, Father loves us and only does what He does out of love. Job said, "*Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust in Him: but I will maintain mine own ways before Him.*" God can annihilate with a flicker of thought, and yet, He takes the time to teach us. He loves us so much He even created a way He could die for OUR sin!



Those who believe have just begun,
To be a child of God, a son,
He treats each one with tender Love,
As if they were the only one. ~CGP

"God is angry with the wicked every day." Sin is wickedness. Disobedience to God's Word is sin, but NEVER think you are beyond forgiveness! Even the crucified murderer was forgiven when he called out to Jesus. *"WHOSOEVER shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* You'll not be saved if you don't confess and repent. Repentance is a return to obedience of God's Word the moment you know you've sinned. It's not how often you repent; it's that you repent! *"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature (including you, yourself), shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* AND...

"IF we confess our sins (admit God's Word and return to obedience), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness (sin)." 1 John 1:9 KJV