

THE ARMY OF GOD

Correction & Repentance

I. Heb12:5-11-Correction is the centerpiece of the training process and without it you will not become a good soldier

A. We are trained by correction

1. Chastening-Training, by implication disciplinary correction; Molding character by reproof; Cultivating the soul by correcting mistakes; Training of children; Instruction that aims at increasing virtue; Chastise with words; Tutorage-Instructing, teaching, directing, correcting
2. Hb12:11-*AM-For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems sad and painful; but afterwards it yields peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness – in conformity to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action resulting in right living]*
3. The idea is I’m training you through correction; I’m looking at what you’re doing and making corrections to it

B. Heb12:10-Partake of his holiness-Imperfections stay imperfections without correction

1. Partaking of His holiness is not talking about being holy (you already are), but living holy
 - a. You are holy-*Co3:12-Holy & beloved, Hb3:1-Holy brethren*-This happened when you got born again; God made you holy
 - b. 1Pt1:15-Living a holy a life, you grow in it, it’s a process-*AC-Be holy in all your conduct and manner of living*
2. Holiness has to do with to sanctify (purify, make holy, consecrate, set apart, separate from profane things, cleanse)
 - a. When you get born again your spirit is holy and sanctified, a finished product; Your conduct is in the process
 - b. 2Tm2:21-To be a vessel that God can flow through, a good soldier God can use, you have to be sanctified
3. God corrects us and sanctifies us with His word-*Jn17:17-Sanctify them through thy truth; Jn15:13-You are clean through the Word*
 - a. Eph5:26-He’s talking about sanctifying and cleansing The Church (which is holy) with the Word – It’s a process
4. The way that you partake of His holiness is by God correcting your unholiness in (thought, word, deed)
 - a. *CEV-God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is; DRA-That we might receive his sanctification; MOUNCE-We may share his holy character; YLT-Be partakers of His separation*

C. 10-For our profit (to improve, grow wiser or better)-Correction is supposed to make you better, yet it makes many bitter

1. Not better in the sense of more acceptable to God or more loved by God, better in the sense of more skillful-Hb5:13
 - a. Can you be more skillful in spiritual things? This concept is foreign to many; 1Th4:9-10-They are in love, he says do it at a higher level; 1Th3:10,2Th1:3-Their faith went from lacking to exceeding; 2Pet3:18-Grow in grace and in the knowledge (moral wisdom seen in right living); Eph6:16-17-Can you get better with that sword/shield?
2. Development (of skill) comes through correction-Pr29:15-The rod and reproof (correction) gives wisdom (skillful)
 - a. *Pr3:11-TLB-Do not resent it when God chastens and corrects you, for his punishment is proof of his love. Just as a Father punishes a son he delights in to make him better, so the Lord corrects you*
3. **EX: My golf lesson – I recognized development is will only come through correction and adjustment**

D. 6-One of the main functions of a loving father is to train you by correction – When God’s correcting me, He’s loving me

1. The last thing that people generally think about when they think about the love of God is God correcting them
2. Love is not coddling, love is not enabling you faults and errors it’s correcting them
3. God loves you too much to let you set there in your faults and miss his plan and blessing for your life
4. Heb12:5-Would the correct you even rebuke you? (Rebuke-Reprehend severely, to correct)
 - a. Mk16:14-Jesus upbraided them for their unbelief; Mt14:31-Why did you doubt?

II. You’re response to correction is the linchpin in your development

A. Heb12:5,Pr3:11-There was an exhortation, a warning about the proper way to respond to correction

1. Exhortation-Warn, caution, to urge, counsel against wrong practices, advise, instruct, direct

B. The first warning was don’t despise correction

1. Despise-Have little regard for, disesteem, make small account of, regard lightly; Pr3:11-Reject, refuse, cast away, disdain, loathe, abhor – You can have such a low esteem for correction that when it comes you cast it away
 - a. Some loathe the idea of coming to church and being corrected about anything going on in their life
 - b. To get mad-Pr3:11-CEV-Don't turn away or become bitter; ICB-Don't become angry when he corrects you
2. You should value you correction (I paid to for it in that golf lesson)
 - a. Pr25:12-When you receive correction its like receiving gold? Is that how you feel when you get corrected? Like someone gave a gold bar or a nice piece of jewelry? *CEB-Wise correction to an ear that listens is like a gold earring or jewelry of fine gold; MSG-A wise friends reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger*
3. Pr12:1-If you love knowledge (skill, to know how, skillful in), then you love instruction (chastening, correction)
 - a. You want to grow and develop so you love anything that will help you do that
 - 1) If you don't care about growth, development, getting better but only being comfortable you won't like it
 - b. If you hate correction you're stupid (Reproof-Correction; British-Foolish, stupid, dull-hearted)

C. The second warning was don't faint when you are corrected

1. Some are so fragile they can't endure correction (If it's couched in soft tones, between two compliments maybe)
 - a. Faint-Despond (depressed, dejected, followed by abandonment of effort), faint hearted, to dissolve, feeble
2. *Hb12:5-ER-Don't stop trying when he corrects you; TL-Don't be discouraged when he has to show you where you are wrong; MS-Don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either; CJ-Become despondent; Pr3:11-MS-Don't sulk under his loving correction; NL-Don't be upset*

D. Can you take correction? Don't gloss over this – If you can't take correction you can't improve

1. Correction doesn't seem to be an occasion for joy, but it seems grievous (sad, pain, annoyance)
 - a. That's why there was this warning b/c when correction comes you'll be tempted to despise it and/or faint
 - b. WHEN correction comes you will be tempted to respond emotionally – Sad or mad?
 - 1) If you get sad and mad you missed the whole point of the correction
2. Keep your emotions in check and deal in truth: Ask the questions 1) Is it true? 2) Do I want to change?
 - a. Keith Moore- "Some of the things that would upset you the most, might make you the angriest, if you had faith and humility to receive it, could be the very thing that would cause you to get free the quickest and develop the most in the shortest amount of time – If you would receive it."
3. One the main differences between good and bad soldiers is the ability to bear correction and make adjustments; With every adjustment I get better

III. Correction is for repentance/adjustment and repentance/adjustment is for growth and growth is for usefulness

A. The purpose of correction is to bring about change in behavior, thought or belief

1. The change in behavior, thought or belief results in development/growth/you get better
2. Development increases your usefulness to God and your access to the things of God

B. Correction shines light on a fault not to shame you, but to shape you-Eph5:13

1. When the Word is preached often times things will be exposed about you that aren't very flattering–Can you bear it? Can you bear finding out that you're not perfect?
2. To be a good soldier you got to be willing to go under the light
 - a. Many don't want to see and would just rather live in a cloud of delusion, in a fantasy world
 - b. Without light you don't know what's really going on because in the dark you can't see reality
3. God doesn't just see you the way you are, but he sees your potential (He called Gideon a mighty man of valor)
 - a. 1Pt5:10,Hb13:21-There's this thing with God what He wants to make you what you ought to be

C. Proverbs 28:13-After correction I change direction, I make an adjustment

1. If you try to hide, cover or make excuse for what the light exposes you won't advance b/c you didn't adjust
2. If you confess (own, acknowledge) what the light exposes and forsake it you get mercy and you will advance

D. 2Tim2:25-Before repentance there's honesty, the acknowledgment of the truth or reality

1. You got to stop playing, pretending like you're somewhere you're not, making excuses for where you are
 - a. The reality is I'm here, the reality is this is why I'm here – Brutally honest without condemning
 - b. You got to hop in there and get dirty with the truth
 - c. Repentance deals in honesty and that's why honesty is a key to your development
2. Once you acknowledge the truth about where you are and why you're there you're in a position to make adjustments
 - a. If you're going to pretend that you're at a place you're not and pretend like you don't have the fault then you won't receive any correction or make any adjustments to actually get there
3. Repentance-Acknowledging the truth and making the necessary adjustment-2Tm2:20
 - a. Repentance is regret and reform-You care that you missed it and so you change
 - b. Repentance is the adjustments I make based on the correction I received
4. When good soldiers are corrected they don't make excuses, make adjustments
 - a. Delayed repentance delays development – How long do you play around? How quickly can you change/adjust?