

God provides the discipline we need to become mature members of His family. This isn't an easy teaching to understand. Sometimes we wonder if God is disciplining us whenever we get sick. If we suffer a misfortune, is it because we have committed a certain sin? Not necessarily. It is often difficult to know when a particular hardship constitutes divine chastening.

Often God whispers in our heart to tell us He is correcting us. Your conscience whispers: "The Lord is teaching you a lesson." If so, take it to heart. He is doing it out of love. In a broader way, all the hardships of life are the means by which we develop the discipline of discipleship. There are lessons in every circumstance, and maturity can be gained in every hardship. Just like Earthly fathers, our Heavenly Father demonstrates His love for us through discipline. Though we don't like discipline, let us learn to be thankful for this demonstration of God's love in our lives. If God didn't discipline His children, He would be a negligent Father. He would be displaying cruel disinterest if He were indifferent to whether His children obeyed Him or not.

Hebrews 12:5-6 "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one He loves."