

III. Discipline, Judgement or Rebuke of the LORD

1. **PRO 3:11-12** My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.
2. **PRO 15:5** A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

When Bad Things Happen: Study III. Discipline, Judgement or Rebuke From the LORD

The Scriptures speak of three types of "Trouble" for the believer:

- I. Temptations or Attacks from Satan
- II. Tests, Trials, Persecutions, Suffering Because We Are Christians
- III. Discipline, Judgment or Rebuke from the LORD

So is this present trouble the Hand of the Lord in direct rebuke, or the promised testing of our faith, or are we being "had" by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.

	TEMPTATION	TEST / TRIAL	DISCIPLINE
FROM	World/Satan/Flesh	God or World/Satan/Flesh	God
RESULT OF	Pride or Exposure	Following God	Disobedience
HOW TO DISCERN	Leads Astray	Proves Faith	Fits Crime
RIGHT RESPONSE	Resist!	Persevere!	Repent!
DO NOT	Fall Into	Shrink Back	Make Light of
GOD IS SAYING	The Flesh is Weak	His Name is In Us	We Are Sons
END WITH	Sin or Victory	Death and Glory	Fear and Holiness

3. **HEB 12:5** Have you forgotten the word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 7 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

God uses severe Discipline only as a last resort. If all God needed to justify mankind to Himself was a bigger cattle-prod, then Christ died for nothing! No, God's plan for the earth is Love first, discipline last. To get us to listen and repent, he will use deep conviction, the rebuke of friends, coincident sermons, the quickening of Scripture, and every other means before disciplining us. But if we resist God's Spirit of light and mercy, we are promised the rod of correction. When God disciplines, the punishment fits the crime. Time and again, we realize that we cannot get away with unrepentant sin. God is sculpting us into holy vessels, and the process can be painful.

4. **DEU 8:5** "You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you. 6 "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.
5. **DEU 32:39** 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
6. **2CH 6:26** "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, 27 "then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.
7. **JOB 5:17-18** "Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For he wounds, but he also binds up; he injures, but his hands also heal."
8. **PSA 51:4** Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.
9. **PSA 89:30** "If his sons forsake My law And do not walk in My judgments, 31 If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments, 32 Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. 33 Nevertheless My loving kindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. 34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: 36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky." Selah
10. **PSA 99:8** You answered them, O Lord our God; You were to them God-Who-Forgives, Though You took vengeance on their deeds.

11. **PSA 107:10** **Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, 11 for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. 12 So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help. 13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.** 14 He brought them out of darkness and the deepest gloom and broke away their chains. 15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, 16 for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron. 17 **Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.** 18 They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. 19 **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.** 20 **He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.** 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.
12. **PSA 118:18** **The Lord has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.**
13. **PSA 119:67** Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
14. **PSA 119:75** **I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.**
15. **PSA 119:71** **It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.**
16. **PRO 13:24** He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
17. **PRO 20:30** **Blows and wounds cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost being.**
18. **ISA 43:1** But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.**
19. **JER 10:24** O Lord, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.
20. **LAM 3:22** Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.
21. **LAM 3:39** **Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins? 40 Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the Lord;** 41 Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven. 42 We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned. 43 You have covered Yourself with anger And pursued us; You have slain and not pitied. 44 You have covered Yourself with a cloud, That prayer should not pass through.
22. **HOS 6:1** **Come, and let us return to the Lord; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.** 2 After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.
23. **MIC 7:8** Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The Lord will be a light to me. 9 **I will bear the indignation of the Lord, Because I have sinned against Him, Until He pleads my case And executes justice for me. He will bring me forth to the light; I will see His righteousness.**
24. **MAL 3:3** **He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.** 4 "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the Lord, As in the days of old, As in former years.
25. **ROM 11:22** **Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God:** sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.
26. **1CO 11:31** For **if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.** 32 **But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.**
27. **2CO 4:16** Therefore we do not lose heart. Even **though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.** 17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,** 18 **while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**
28. **REV 3:19** [Jesus] **"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent."**
DOES GOD HAVE A "STYLE" OF JUDGEMENT?
29. **NUM 32:23** "But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and **you may be sure that your sin will find you out.**"
30. **GAL 6:7** **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 **Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.**
31. **REV 16:7** . . . **"Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."**
32. **REV 19:1-2** "Hallelujah! . . . for true and righteous are His judgments."
THE STORY OF JACOB AS AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S STYLE OF JUDGEMENT
14. **GEN 27:6-16** Rebekah said to her son Jacob [his name means "he deceives"], "Look, I overheard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me some game and prepare me some tasty food to eat, so that I may give you my blessing in the presence of the Lord before I die.' Now, my son, . . . Go out to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, so I can prepare tasty food for your father, just the way he likes it. . . "But my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I'm a man with smooth skin. . . "Just do what I say, go and get them for me." . . . Then Rebekah took the best clothes of Esau . . . and put them on her younger son Jacob. She also covered his hands and the smooth part of his neck with the goatskins.

DECEPTION USING HIS BROTHER'S COAT AND A DEAD GOAT

15. **GEN 27:19-36** Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. . ." Isaac asked, "How did you find it so quickly, my son?" "The Lord your God gave me success," he replied. Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau. . . Are you really my son Esau?" . . . "I am," he replied. . . . After Isaac had scarcely left his father's presence, his brother Esau came in from hunting. . . Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? He has deceived me these two times: he took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!"

JACOB LEARNS A LESSON IN THE RIGHTS OF THE FIRSTBORN

16. **GEN 29:16-27** Now Laban had two daughters, the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel was lovely in form, and beautiful. Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." . . . So Jacob served seven years. . . . Laban gave a feast. But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and Jacob lay with her. . . . When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years work."

LATER IN LIFE, JACOB IS DECEIVED VIA GOAT / CLOTHES BY HIS OWN SONS

17. **GEN 37:23-35** So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, . . . and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites. . . . Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornamented robe back to their father [Jacob] and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."
18. **1COR 10:6** Now these things occurred as examples, to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

VERBAL REBUKES

19. **LEV 19:17** "Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.
20. **PRO 19:25** Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.
* God will often use men to offer a verbal rebuke through prophecy or admonishment before disciplining us. Instead of letting our pride get offended, we should be willing to accept and give such rebukes within the body of Christ so that we can avoid sterner discipline - the rod.
21. **PRO 17:10** A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.
22. **PRO 28:23** He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

LIFE GIVING REBUKE

23. **PRO 15:31** He who listens to **a life-giving rebuke** will be at home among the wise.
For a rebuke to be life-giving it must be 1) correct; and 2) acted on. First, we must admit that not all rebukes we get, or give, are of God. The Spirit will confirm the truth of the rebuke. Secondly, even if the rebuke is correct, it will only serve to condemn us if we don't repent.
24. **PSA 141:5** Let a righteous man strike me - it is a kindness; let him rebuke me - it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.
25. **PRO 25:12** Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.
26. **PRO 27:5** Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
27. **1TI 5:20** Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning.
28. **LUK 17:3** So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.

GOD'S MIRACLES . . . OF REBUKE!

29. **NUM 11:1** Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.
30. **NUM 26:10** The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, and they served as a warning sign. (Korah and his followers)
31. **ACT 5:5,11** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. . . . Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

AS CHILDREN, WE GET THE PUNISHMENT NOW, RATHER THAN LATER

32. **1PE 4:17-19** The time has evidently arrived for God's judgement to begin, and it is beginning at his own household. And if it starts with us, what is going to mean for those who refuse to obey the gospel of God? If even the good man is only just saved, what will be the fate of the wicked and the sinner? Therefore those who suffer according to God's will can safely commit their souls to their faithful Creator, and go on doing all the good they can.
33. **PRO 22:15** Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.
34. **PRO 23:4** . . . your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

Some Christian groups assume Satan is behind every kind of problem. This is a dangerous view, as it comes close to blaspheming the work of the Holy Spirit when God rebukes us. Other groups focus on enduring trials. Yet other groups focus on God's discipline to the point of not recognizing mere tribulation or the active work of Satan. So the next time some "trouble" comes in life, is there a way of discerning the meaning? What instruction has God given us?

Find the Scriptural basis for EACH of the DISCIPLINE table entries below from this Bible study. Especially note the difference in how (and how not) to respond. As you can see, since opposite responses are appropriate, discernment is key. We should avoid and resist temptation; Persevere tests, trials and suffering; and never resist what God is doing, or attribute it to Satan.

	<u>TEMPTATION</u>	<u>TEST or TRIAL</u>	<u>DISCIPLINE</u>
FROM	World/Satan/Flesh	God or World/Satan/Flesh	God
RESULT OF	Pride or Exposure	Following God	Disobedience
HOW TO DISCERN	Leads Astray	Proves Faith	Fits Crime
RIGHT RESPONSE	Resist!	Persevere!	Repent!
DO NOT	Fall Into	Shrink Back	Make Light of
GOD IS SAYING	The Flesh is Weak	His Name is In Us	We Are Sons
END WITH	Sin or Victory	Death and Glory	Fear and Holiness

35. **ROM 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

GETTING AWAY WITH SIN?

Those who are able to consistently sin and not be rebuked by God are not His children. Those who have been born again are seized by deep conviction when they sin, and if they do not repent they are always "spanked" by God for it. Is this true in your life? Do you pass the family test?

36. **PSA 38:1-7** O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. For your arrows have pierced me, and your hand has come down upon me. . . My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. (See also Psalm 6 and Luke 12:27-28)

37. **1CO 3:13** his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and **the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.** 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

→ If we put our faith in some prayer, formula, or church - and are able to remain in sin without feeling the hand of God, this "faith" is a deception. The only "ticket to heaven" is in a fiery chariot, (**2KI 2:11**) and it is a glorious destiny for the soul but an uncomfortable ride for the flesh.

THE FINAL CONSEQUENCE OF REBELLION

38. **PRO 1:24 -27** "But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you - when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you."

39. **PRO 1:28-31** "Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

40. **PRO 29:1** A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed - without remedy.

41. **ISA 15:22** But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.** 23 For **rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

42. **HEB 10:31** It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

43. **PSA 71:20** You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, Shall revive me again, And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

44. **IPE 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,** 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 **receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.**

45. **IPE 4:17** For **the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God;** and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

46. **IJO 5:3** This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for **everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our FAITH.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**