

Carrying the Cross: A Life of Discipline

The Concept of Discipline in the Bible

The Hebrew word that is translated ‘to discipline’ (musar) carries with it the following meanings: to chastise, and in a transferred sense figuratively to reprove, warn, or instruct. The primitive Hebrew root “yasar,” from which this Hebrew word (musar) for discipline originates means “to chastise,” literally, (with blows), or figuratively, “to instruct” (with words).

The Greek word that is translated discipline is the Greek word ‘paideia.’ This word means to instruct, and in a transferred sense means to chasten (because all Biblically based useful instruction of sinful children of sinful human beings would necessarily imply corrective discipline).

We get an insight into the love and holiness and the gentleness and patience and kindness of our God in Hebrews 12. To get an insight into the Greek word for discipline we are using the Amplified Bible for the translation:

- Hebrews 12:7 You must submit to and endure **correction for discipline (paideia)**; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train and **correct and discipline (paideúei)**?
- Hebrews 12:8 Now if you are exempt from **correction** and left without **discipline (paideia)** in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all]. [Prov 3:11,12.]
- Hebrews 12:11 For the time being no **discipline (paideia)** brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Because of the Biblical understanding of original sin, and because of the waywardness of children as a result of sin, the concept of paideia is foundational for the training of children. To understand how foundational this term is, paideia in time became known as the whole education and training of children (please see Ephesians 6:4). Since we are embarked on a voyage of lifelong learning, paideia for adults carries with it the meaning of cultivating the soul, and of curbing passions.

Given this background, we are to welcome God’s disciplining us, for He shows us His love and interest as we receive discipline from Him. Please note Proverbs 3:11 and how it instantiates the concept of how we should embrace the discipline from our Lord’s hand, “My son, do not despise or shrink from the **chastening (musar)** of the Lord [**His correction by punishment or by subjection to suffering or trial**]; neither be weary of or impatient about or loathe or abhor His reproof.” (Amplified Bible)

[Note: The sermon followed this outline]

The Foundation of Discipline

1. Regarding Pedagogy - Getting Back to Basics:
The Example of Garth Brooks;
2. Discipline allows us not to lose our edge:
What Paul Harvey learned from an associate of Billy Graham;
3. Embracing discipline allows us the possibility of excelling:
What an associate of Kevin Miller was able to accomplish;
4. If we get accustomed to going all out, to excel in the battle will
be made easier;
Practicing perfectly (or almost perfectly) may make one a
champion.
5. The Disciplines of the child of God:
 - The Example of Christ;
 - Being a student of the Word;
 - Receiving Trials from a loving Father;