

# Four Do Not's You Do Not Want to Miss about God's Correction

Hebrews 12:5-9

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Hebrews 12:5-9** – (5) “And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; (6) For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’ (7) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? (8) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. (9) Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?”
- B. Have you ever had a teacher or a coach or some type of leader that seemed to single you out and drive you harder, leaving you to conclude that they did not like you or had something against you? Perhaps later you became aware that they saw something special in you and were doing this for your good.
- C. Who loves his child more—the father who allows the child to do what will harm him, or the one who corrects, trains, and even punishes the child to help him learn what is right?
1. It is never pleasant to be corrected and disciplined by God, but His discipline is a sign of his deep love for us.
  2. When God corrects you, see it as proof of his love, and ask him what he is trying to teach you.
  3. If you believe that a sovereign God disciplines his beloved children, turning problems into moments of growth and finally joy, you will overcome fear and shame.
- D. Who loves his child more—the father who allows the child to do what will harm him, or the one who corrects, trains, and even punishes the child to help him learn what is right?
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4. We read in the Book of Proverbs that "those who spare the rod hate their children, but those who love them are diligent to discipline them" **Proverbs 13:24**

E. From our lesson text, let us observe **Four Do Not's You Do Not Want to Miss about God's Correction.**

**(1) DO NOT DESPISE IT! Hebrews 12:5**

- A. Rather than slamming the door on God's correction, we should put out the welcome mat for it . . . It is for our good.

**(2) DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED BY IT! Hebrews 12:5**

- A. It's intended purpose is the opposite of discouragement.  
B. Do you realize how much discouragement and pain the Lord's correction actually can spare us, if we heed it?

**(3) DO NOT VIEW IT AS GOD NOT LOVING YOU! Hebrews 12:6-9**

- A. It is actually the evidence of God's love.  
1. Think of an earthly father or mother who just let's their children do as they please without regard to the results of their actions or behavior.  
2. We would all draw the conclusion that those parents do not love their children.  
B. Yet, when God corrects, we can be tempted to interpret it as not being loved by God.

**(4) DO NOT VIEW IT AS REJECTION! Hebrews 12:6**

- A. Actually, our Father's correction is preparation for greater intimacy because it educates you more deeply into the ways of God and establishes you more deeply in His love and acceptance.  
B. So, correction can actually break the power of rejection in our lives because it makes us feel valued, accepted and secure that our Father would love us enough to help us on the right path and protect us from coming danger.

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Four **DO NOT'S** about God's Correction.  
1. Do not despise it.  
2. Do not be discouraged by it.  
3. Do not view it as God not loving you.  
4. Do not view it as rejection.  
B. The book of Hebrews stresses the importance of submitting to God. The consequences of rebelling are disastrous.

**C. ILLUSTRATION:** A biography of the great essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson describes the change that came over him when his first wife died young. He withdrew from the ministry and from Christian faith and became famous for advocating the glory of self. By the time he reached midlife, he had "died" emotionally and spiritually. The fire he sought in his own soul had become a dim flicker on a wet wick.

1. Instead of rebelling when life's adversity rolls over you, regard your problems as God's opportunities to shape your character.
2. Depend on God for relief and deliverance.
  - a. Trust God for vision to see beyond the bleakness.
  - b. Believe God to be the loving parent He is.

C. Our loving Father will never withhold what is good for us and will never condone what will hurt us. We are in His loving care 24/7.

**D. God's Plan for Man's Salvation**