

DAY 6 — CONVICTION

Truth that leads us closer, not shame that drives us away

THE HEART OF TODAY

Conviction is **truth revealed for the purpose of repentance, restoration, and formation**. The Spirit of truth exposes what needs to be seen. Godly sorrow responds to that truth. Discipline trains us in a new way. And the intended harvest is righteousness and peace.

“There is a kind of love that loves us too deeply to leave us untouched by the truth. Conviction belongs to that love.”

THE SCRIPTURAL MOVEMENT

REVEAL	John 16:7–13 — The Spirit of truth guides into truth and exposes what is wrong. Conviction begins with seeing clearly.
SORROW → REPENT	2 Corinthians 7:8–11 — Godly sorrow is not the destination. Its fruit is repentance, earnestness, concern, longing, and changed action.
TRAIN	Hebrews 12:5–11 — Discipline is described inside the relationship of Father and child. Correction is training, not abandonment.
TEACH → FRUIT	Psalms 94:12–15 — Discipline and teaching belong together. The Lord does not forsake His people; righteousness is the direction of His correction.

WORD-STUDY THREADS

Distinguishing truth. Chaim Bentorah's devotional treatment of the Aramaic *paraq* pictures the Spirit helping us distinguish what is right from what is wrong so that truth can be responded to, not merely felt.

Returning like a child. Bentorah's little-child imagery beautifully complements Hebrews: conviction does not revoke belonging. The child who realizes something is wrong does not need to earn the Father's arms before returning to them.

Grief with hope. Biblical sorrow is not meant to become a permanent residence. The question is not simply, “Do I feel bad?” but, “**What is this sorrow producing in me?**”

COME CLOSER, NOT FARTHER

Correction without rejection • sorrow with somewhere to go

CONVICTION OR CONDEMNATION?

CONVICTION	CONDEMNATION / DESTRUCTIVE SHAME
Specific: shows what needs to change.	Global: turns failure into an identity.
Moves toward truth and repentance.	Moves toward hiding and hopelessness.
May hurt, but gives direction.	Hurts without a faithful way forward.
Calls me toward God.	Tells me to withdraw from God.
Over time produces righteousness and peace.	Keeps me trapped in accusation and self-contempt.

Discomfort alone does not tell me which one I am experiencing. Hebrews says discipline can be painful. I discern by asking whether what I am hearing is **true, specific, directional, fruitful, and drawing me toward God.**

WHAT IF IT IS A CLASSROOM?

What if some of God's correction is not a courtroom sentence at all? **What if it is a classroom?** A loving Father is forming discernment, training responses, strengthening what is weak, and teaching His child what leads to life. The pain is not the goal. Formation is.

“The Father who corrects you is still the Father whose face you came seeking.”

A SIMPLE DISCERNMENT CHECK

1. **Is it true?** Does it agree with Scripture and God's character?
2. **Is it specific?** Can I name what needs to change?
3. **Does it lead somewhere?** Is repentance or faithful action possible?
4. **What fruit is it producing?** Repentance and transformation—or only despair?
5. **Does it call me toward God?** I do not need to flee the Father in order to obey the Father.

TODAY'S HEART WORK

Lord, what are You showing me that is true?

What needs to change—not because I am rejected, but because I belong to You?

What might You be teaching or training in me through this?

Can I receive clarity without turning correction into shame?

THE INVITATION

You do not have to manufacture conviction or search yourself frantically for something wrong. Make room. Listen. If the Spirit brings something into the light, bring it to God without defense and without turning it into your identity.

Yes, Lord. I see it.

Yes, Lord. That needs to change.

Yes, Lord. Teach me another way.

I do not have to fear the truth when the One showing it to me loves me.

Read: John 16:7–13 • 2 Corinthians 7:8–11 • Hebrews 12:5–11 • Psalm 94:12–15