

## Introduction:

Have you ever noticed Jesus in what is called “The Model Prayer” in **Matthew 6** and His personal prayer in **John 17** begins with the words “Father”? Then **Hebrews 12** speaks of the “chastening of the Lord” and compares it to the way our earthly fathers disciplines us? <sup>7</sup> *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?* <sup>8</sup> *But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.* <sup>9</sup> *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?* <sup>10</sup> *For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.* <sup>11</sup> *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.* **Hebrews 12:7-11** I want us to consider the various ways our heavenly Father disciplines us drawing some correlation with our earthly father.

### I) By Words

#### A) Our earthly father

1. Talks to us- communication is key in any relationship. A sure sign something is wrong is when no one is speaking and/or no one is listening.
2. They don't just say words but they instruct us – how to catch a ball, tie our shoes, chop wood, etc.
3. They also warn us- if you do this, you will be in trouble.
4. They also encourage us – good job, or you can do it, or they give us a reward.

#### B) Our Heavenly Father speaks to us

1. Through the Bible.

<sup>16</sup> *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is*

*profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 2 Timothy 3:16*

2. After God made man, He spoke to him.

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Genesis 1:27-28*

a. God did not say, I will let you figure your role out.

b. He communicated clearly what He wanted them to do.

3. There was not a time, a dispensation, where God did not reveal His will to mankind by His word.

*<sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, Hebrews 1:1-2*

a. Patriarchal Dispensation – God spoke directly to the heads of the households.

*<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD had said to Abram:*

*"Get out of your country,  
From your family*

*And from your father's house,  
To a land that I will show you.*

*<sup>2</sup> I will make you a great nation;  
I will bless you*

*And make your name great;  
And you shall be a blessing.*

*<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
And I will curse him who curses you;  
And in you all the families of the earth shall be  
blessed." Genesis 12:1-3*

b. Mosical Dispensation- God revealed His word to Moses

and then the prophets.

- i. God spoke to Moses at the burning bush.

***So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” Exodus 3:4***

- ii. in giving the 10 Commandments

***<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words, saying:***

***<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:1-2***

- c. In the Christian Dispensation we have the inspired words of Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

***<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. Acts 2:14***

3. These words are meant to instruct, to warn, and to encourage us,

***<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17***

## **II) By Blessing Us**

### **A) We receive blessings us our earthly fathers-**

1. Food, shelter, clothing, emotional support, heritage, etc.
2. If you do good then you will receive something good.

### **B) God tells us, if we do good then good will come about.**

1. To Adam and Eve, they would have access to the tree of life.

2. To Israel, He told them they would receive good things if they were faithful.

**<sup>1</sup> “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: *Deuteronomy 28:1-2***

3. To us we have the assurance

**<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. *Romans 8:28***

- a. If we follow God's law and have the right relationship in our families- we will have happier families. (Husbands, wives, children)
- b. If we obey the civil authorities we will have no reason to fear those authorities.
- c. If we have the right relationship with our brethren then unity will prevail.

4. If we die doing what God commands we will have the greater blessing.

**<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. *Revelation 2:10***

### III) By Withholding Blessings

A) Sometimes our punishment from our earthly fathers is the withholding of something we desire.

1. You will miss out on something fun!

2. Or the dreaded “time out” might be our punishment.

**B) Sometimes God punishes by withholding blessings**

1. God kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden.
2. To Israel, He simply withheld the rain, good harvest, and His protection.
  - a. Example of Moses.

***<sup>48</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying: <sup>49</sup> “Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession; <sup>50</sup> and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people; <sup>51</sup> because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel. <sup>52</sup> Yet you shall see the land before you, though you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel.”***  
***Deuteronomy 32:48-52***

3. To us the lack of fellowship, missing out on heaven.

**IV) By Directly Punishing Us**

**A) Our earthly fathers punish us for our good.**

1. I know this is not in vogue today but spanking is sometimes needed.
2. It did not take me long to understand the correlation between my behavior and punishment.

**B) Our Heavenly Father Punishes Disobedience**

1. Adam and Eve would taste death.

***17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”  
Genesis 2:17***

***19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread  
Till you return to the ground,  
For out of it you were taken;  
For dust you are,  
And to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19***

2. To Israel, captured and taken off their land.

***8 “Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘Because you have not heard My words, 9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ says the LORD, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. Jeremiah 25:8-9***

3. To us, missing out on heaven and being cast into outer darkness.

***46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25:46***

***7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Galatians 6:7-8***

### **Conclusion:**

God tells us how to live godly lives and receive the reward of heaven. He also tells us of the punishment of disobedience. We determine how we receive God’s discipline.