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Do Not Despise ADONAI's Discipline

3: 11-12

A proverb is a short and memorable saying designed to be our blueprint for living in the world that ADONAI has created. It is important to note that proverbs are not promises; they are generally true principles, all other things being equal.

There are two extremes in life. When good times roll and when hardship strikes. When life is sweet, trusting **God** with all our hearts feels unnecessary. But when life is bitter, trusting **God** with all our heart seems impossible. We need **wisdom** from those two seasons of life when we are on top of the world and when nothing seems to be going right. **God** is with us in both, with **wisdom** that makes a positive difference. Earlier in **Proverbs 3:5**, **ADONAI** calls us to **trust Him wholeheartedly**. Now, in **Proverbs 3:9-12**, **He** leads us to **trust Him** when we are pushed out to these two opposite edges of our lives: **plenty** as seen in the previous file ([to see link click At - Honor ADONAI from Your Wealth](#)), and **pain** as seen here.⁸¹



My son, do not reject ADONAI's discipline, and do not resent His rebuke (3:11 NIV). For ADONAI corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a

child in whom he delights (3:12 NLT). Discipline is a part of **God’s** plan to help **His children** mature in godly character (see the commentary on **Hebrews Cz - God Disciplines His Children**). **ADONAI** disciplines us, not as a judge punishes a criminal, **for there is now no condemnation in Messiah Yeshua (Romans 8:1)**, but as a parent **disciplines a child**. His purpose is **that we may share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:10b)**. Sometimes **He disciplines** us because we have rebelled and need to repent; other times **He disciplines** us from sinning and to prepare us for **His** special blessing. No matter how much the experience *hurts* us, it will never *harm* us, because **ADONAI** always **disciplines** us in **love: Remember how ADONAI your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey His commands (Deuteronomy 8:2-5 NLT)**.⁸²

When bad times and hard times come in life (and they will come). **Yeshua** said: **In this life you will have trouble (John 16:33)**. When that happens, we only have two choices. Either **God** loves us passionately, or **He** hates our guts. It has to be one or the other. And we all have had moments when it feels like **Ha’Shem** despises us. That is why we are thankful for **God’s Word** that declares: **My son**. Do you hear the tenderness in those words? **The wise father** is counseling **the son he loves**. This advice fits into the broader theme of **Proverbs**, to listen to correction and be ready to learn from one’s mistakes (**9:7-12, 10:17, 12:1, 14:9, 15:10, 12, 31, 25:12, 26:11, 27:5-6, 28:13** and **23**). **God’s discipline**, thought painful, shows that **He** cares for **His children**. It is the neglectful parent who **s pares the rod**, after all (**29:15**).⁸³ What is **he** saying about the hard times? **Two things**.

First, when we suffer, ADONAI isn’t angry with us. Suffering *feels* like anger; it *feels* like loss; it *feels* like **God** has **abandoned** us. But we know that can’t be true because **He** has promised: **I will never leave you or abandon you (Deuteronomy 31:6** and **Hebrews 13:5)**. All **the heroes** in **Hebrews 11** suffered (see the commentary on **Hebrews Cj - Faith in Action**). **They** were tortured, mistreated, and killed. Was **God** angry with **them**? No. **He commended them (Heb 11:2, 6)**. That is why it says: **ADONAI is not ashamed to be called their God (Heb 11:16)**. **He** was proud of **them**. To use the language of **Proverbs 3:12**, **He** was **delighted** in **them**. When you are suffering, here’s what you need to remember. Your sufferings are not evidence against you, nor are they evidence against **ADONAI**. It is the opposite. Your sufferings are proof that **God** your **Father**

cherishes you. As **Hebrews 12:7** says, quoting these verses: **ADONAI is treating you as sons.**

Second, our wise path through suffering is to accept it and wait for ADONAI to fulfill His purpose. If you are suffering right now, you are probably being tempted in two opposite directions. Both can be seen here in **3:11**. Either you **reject ADONAI’s discipline**, which is the active response of anger, or to be tired of **His discipline**, which is the passive response of despair. What is your only path forward? The Bible says: Be **trained by it (Heb 12:11)**. We get our modern word *gymnasium* from that Greek word. By our sufferings, **God** has us working out. Is that so bad? **Yeshua Himself** suffered: **Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what he suffered (Heb 5:8)**. The Bible says that **Yeshua understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. He** neither lashed back at **the Father**, nor did **He sin**. So we have a **Friend** in **Yeshua** who is qualified to stand before **God** on our behalf, but who is also sympathetic with us because **He** knows how it feels. So the Bible tells us to **come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most (Heb 4:16 NLT)**.⁸⁴

The difficulty is knowing when suffering is to **train** us and when there is some other reason behind it. **Job** discusses these issues and caution against drawing too simplistic a conclusion about the divine purpose of suffering. **Elihu**, for instance, wrongly insists that **discipline** for sin was the purpose behind **Job’s** plight (**Job 36:21**). Nevertheless, **the psalmist** was well aware, suffering can often bring us closer to **God**: **When I was prosperous, I said, “Nothing can stop me now!” Your favor, ADONAI, made me as secure as a mountain. Then you turned away from me, and I was shattered. I cried out to you, ADONAI. I begged YHVH for mercy . . . and You turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy (Psalm 30:6-8 and 11)**.⁸⁵

Are you suffering right now? Is the pain driving you away from **the Lord**, or to **Him**? What lesson do you think that **Yeshua** wants you to learn? How can you be **trained** by your suffering? Pray that your **loving heavenly Father** would reveal what **He** wants you to learn, knowing that **He** wants to **take away your clothes of mourning and clothe you with joy**. Praise **Him** now, knowing that **He only corrects those He loves**.

Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** for being such a **wise father** who not only loves to guide me into great joy and peace; but also disciplines when I am on the wrong path. Discipline is never fun, but the results help me to produce the fruit of righteousness. **Now all discipline seems painful at the moment - not joyful. But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:10c-11).** Thank you for not giving up on me when I choose the wrong path. Your pattern for how you dwelt with **Isra’el** provides a template for understanding how you will deal with each nation (**Leviticus 26:1-13; Deuteronomy 28:1-14**). Each nation will have to stand before you **God** for judgment or blessing and everyone is accountable to **the Creator’s** moral standard. **Isra’el’s** curses for disobedience were severe so as to serve as a warning. Curses included confusion, frustration, disease, drought, defeat by enemies and ultimately exile from the Promised Land. However, **Israel’s** blessings included prosperity, fruitfulness in offspring and livestock (good sales nowadays), abundant harvests (financial prosperity), victory over enemies (over competitors), and establishment as a holy people (relationship with **God**). It is a joy to know that even in discipline, **God** is always good! Thank **You** for **Your** steadfast love that both blesses and wisely disciplines me, to bring back my relationship with **You**. In **Messiah Yeshua’s** Holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen