



God's Correction

As I look back to my childhood, I am grateful for having parents that corrected me. They taught me vital lessons to be able to succeed in life. I understand now that correction was necessary for right living in society and prosperity in my life.

Proverbs 10:17

Accept correction, and you will find life; reject correction, and you will miss the road.

As parents or legal guardians correct their children, our Father also corrects His children. In fact, it is a model for us to understand God's heart towards His children.

However, let's not confuse man's correction with the Father's correction. Most people interpret God's heart via their broken experiences and end up adding attributes to God which He doesn't have. Remember, God's ways are not like man's ways.

Hebrews 12:5-6

My child, don't reject the Lord's correction, and don't be upset when he corrects you. The Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child he is pleased with.

Firstly, the Lord corrects those He dearly loves and He is pleased with – His children. In other words, the Father only corrects the believer in Christ from a heart of lavish love.

Secondly, God's correction is never punishment for sins. Since the Lord corrects those He is already pleased with, this means His correction is NOT done out of anger or disappointment, but rather from the standpoint of compassion and grace because He knows there is heart-ache causing that undesirable outcome.

A well respected Bible teacher says it in this manner:

- “When the believer is under the rod let him not say, God is now punishing me for my sins. That can never be. That is most dishonoring to the blood of Christ. God is correcting thee in love, not smiting in wrath...” – **A.W. Pink**

On the other hand, when man corrects, most of the time it is done on the basis of a reactive action to prevent behavioral problems. But unlike man, God is more concerned with your belief than your action because your wrong belief is causing you a wrong action.

It is for this reason that God was so tough on the Galatians for perverting the Gospel of Grace (wrong belief) but gentle with the Corinthians for perverting their bodies through sexual immorality (wrong actions).

In other words, God's correction targets primarily your wrong belief because to God your wrong belief is more severe than your wrong action. Yet, to most believers, it is the other way around.

Know that God doesn't want to just patch up the situation by trying to get you to change your actions without changing your heart. That's what He did throughout the Old Testament with the Jews. A lot of times God got them to change their actions by fear but there was never a change of heart. This means it was just a matter of time before they committed the wrong action again.

Don't get me wrong, there is a place to correct wrong actions. The Lord corrects wrong actions that are destroying you, your relationships, and your overall well-being. In such cases, the Father will step in to tell you that you're going the wrong way or doing the wrong thing, but it is done from the place of a gentle still, small, loving voice under the New Covenant of Grace.

-How does God correct in the New Covenant of Grace?

When it comes to correcting your wrong belief, the Lord will **rebuke** through the Word and Spirit by bringing teachings your way that will go strongly against your wrong beliefs. These will sting your heart and hurt your pride because the Holy Spirit is trying to talk you out of your legalistic, self-righteous, heretical beliefs that are impeding you from receiving His grace.

When it comes to correcting your wrong actions, the Lord will **comfort** through the Word and Spirit by bringing teachings your way that will edify you.

If you disregard His Word and Spirit and continue in the destructive wrong action, then He deals with you from the outside-in by interrupting your overall progress and allows you to make enough mistakes just to get your attention. He does it as an act of grace because He sees that you are headed towards a future brick wall of heartaches, problems, and hardships, so He tries to stop you at all costs. He will continue to get your attention by bringing other fellow believers in Christ to confront your wrong actions by grace and remind you that you are still righteous by faith in Christ as God did with the Corinthians through the Apostle Paul.

But don't think for a moment that the Lord uses or allows disease, poverty, persecutions or any other form of death to correct you. This is clearly not the work of the Lord but the work of Satan. Anybody teaching this and calling it 'God's correction' is not of God but Satan.

Hebrews 12:8

If God doesn't correct you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.

The word *correction* in the Greek is *paideuó*, which means "to train children." This is precisely what the Father does when He feels you need correction. He makes your way straight and trains you towards the purpose and vision He has for your life. He loves you too much to see you going the wrong way. Learn to accept His corrections, child of God. He trains you as little children so you may live life abundant, prosperous, victorious and with purpose.

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