

GOD'S SCHOOL OF DEPENDENCE

Series: Deuteronomy-
A Call to Faithfulness
February 28, 2021

Deuteronomy 8

God disciplines believers in order to remind us how much we need Him

LET'S GET STARTED

"Why is this happening to me?" Every Christian asks that question during times of adversity. However, a better question is, "How is this shaping me?" When we suffer, we should seek to understand how God is using our trial to mature us and to teach us to depend upon Him, because that's exactly what He wants to do!

FOUR THINGS GOD DID FOR THE ISRAELITES DURING THE EXODUS

- He _____ them (v. 2).
"Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands."
- He _____ them (v. 3).
"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."
- He _____ of them (v. 4).
"Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years."
- He _____ them (v. 5).
"Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you."

Quotable

Everything the Lord measures to us has a purpose and meaning to it. He wants to build us up through our experiences and environment. All of His discipline is for the purpose of perfecting us and making us holy.

—Watchman Kneen

Father, . . . Let my illness and discomfort be like smelling salts that show me my dependence and need for you more clearly.

—Timothy Keller

If you would like to know more

Be Equipped (Deuteronomy), by Warren Wiersbe (David C. Cook, 2010)

GOD'S SCHOOL OF DEPENDENCE

INSIGHTS ON GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF BELIEVERS (Hebrews 12:7-11).

Discipline confirms that we are _____ (vv. 7-8).

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Discipline should lead us to _____ God, not resent Him (v. 9).

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

God's discipline is for our _____ (v. 10).

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

God's discipline is unpleasant, but _____ (v. 11).

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

LET'S LIVE IT

We can put today's truth into practice by focusing less upon why bad things happen to us, and more upon how they are shaping us—or *should* shape us.

If you would like to speak to any of our Pastors about a spiritual need in your life, here is their contact information:

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You may also discover what the Bible says about how to become a Christian by visiting the following page on our website: <http://www.crowfieldbaptist.org/salvation/>