

As we start tonight, it is important to remember that the context of this letter is suffering. The believers in Jerusalem and Judea were experiencing great persecution at the hands of the Jews. It simply was not safe to be a Christian during this time; the duress and oppression was overwhelming. So much so that these believers were tempted to return to Judaism as a way to bring an end to their suffering.

So this letter was written to encourage the saints to not give up but to hold on to their precious faith believing that 1) Jesus, being God, is so much bigger and better than anything Judaism has to offer, 2) their faith was so much better than the religious rituals to which they were tempted to return, and 3) all that was happening to them was necessary and was brought about by the sovereign hand of their loving Father.

I am sure that when those who were first reading this letter arrived at Chapter 12 they about keeled over. They were mad, they were disillusioned over what they had to endure, they did not understand it, they did not like it, and they were ready to throw in the towel on Christianity and walk away. So you know this chapter really messed with their heads.

They probably had never thought of connecting the persecution and oppression they were enduring at the hands of the Jews with the loving discipline of their heavenly Father. After all, if someone is intentionally making you suffer it's not readily apparent how that could be synonymous with love?

We must also keep in mind that this letter was also written to you and me; to encourage us not to ever quit in our walk of faith—no matter what we might be going through. The idea presented by the Spirit is that if we really understood

what was going on in our lives (in terms of our suffering), we would not resent the Lord for choosing to love us so dearly. We would understand that in His great unfailing love and tender mercy He is saving us from ourselves. He is setting us free from every enemy within our soul that prevents us from moment by moment experiencing Him. He is loosening the bonds that have enslaved us and He is making room for His Spirit to dwell fully within us.

Again, this is a real brain twister. We have a lot more understanding of this whole dynamic than did the first century believers, but still even for us it is hard to equate our suffering with the love of God. I believe we can understand what the Spirit is saying, but our emotions have the hardest time accepting it as our truth because basically we don't like it. Hopefully tonight as we understand more fully why God takes us through difficulty, we might relent and let our suffering accomplish all that it is intended to accomplish in our lives.

We will back up to verse 3 so we can pick up the context:

Hebrews 12:3-13

Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?

If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?

For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.

The Spirit first reminds us that our Captain of faith, Jesus, endured far worse than we have ever experienced. Jesus went all the way with it; He suffered until He died. Obviously, none of us can claim that we have suffered to that extent in our battle against our wrong belief and unbelief. So the Spirit exhorts us to hold on and not give up; and, in oh so many words, He tells us to stop acting like a bunch of babies. Jesus set the example, we have a whole bunch of witnesses who made it before us, and if we cooperate with God we can be assured that we will likewise make it; God will see to it.

The Spirit then suddenly flips everything upside down and around and He moves this whole discussion about our suffering into the realm of God's merciful love. The Spirit quotes ***Proverbs 3:11-12*** and in so doing connects a few ideas that are common sense when you think about it, but when it comes to personal

application in our own lives few people probably ever practically connect their own experiences of intense physical, emotional, and psychological suffering with encouragement, correction, discipline and love; although, I am pretty sure we all instantly connect to the word “punishment.”

Keep in mind this is supposed to encourage you. I know you are suffering, I know it is terrible, I know that you hate life, I know that it seems there is no safe place for you in this world and that there are enemies all around you, I know it feels like there will never be an end, but ... “Jesus loves you.”

Seriously though, this is not to be taken as some cheesy cliché, the Spirit is doing some intense restructuring of the way we think about all of these things. He is not just joking or making light of our situation; rather He wants us to adopt His perspective on our suffering so we can reconcile every part of our lives with the love of God. And I mean every part. There are not to be any areas of hidden pain and darkness that we harbor within ourselves; all is to be reconciled with the perfect love of God.

We are instructed not to make light of the Lord's discipline, and not give up when he corrects us. You see I think the problem is that because we are emotional beings we have throughout our life connected so many intense and negative emotions with the words punishment, discipline, and correction. For most of us those words are attached to anger, resentment, bitterness, and the feeling that we failed or seriously disappointed someone important in our lives, parents, grandparents, teachers, etc.

This is because growing up too often our correction or discipline flowed from people’s anger, frustration, and disappointment with us and not purely from a

desire for them to teach us how to be better people. We tend not to forget that kind of thing; the horror of it all sticks in our very cells. It seems that every part of our body remembers the vocal tones, the facial expressions, and the pain we felt. As such, our bodies tend to shrink back in the face of discipline and correction.

But when we read the scriptures, we often need to realize that we must separate our understanding of certain words (and the feelings associated with them) and realize that the Lord is talking to us using His understanding of words which are backed by His motivations and His intentions for our lives. By definition these are very different than what we are used to and so the Spirit wants us to be willing to let our minds be transformed with His understanding.

For example, the Spirit used the word punishment synonymously with the words discipline and love. How is that so? In our mind those two things just don't meet. We tend to think that if we have done something wrong we will be punished; after all, that was our experience growing up and so that is what we project on to God. I know I looked over my shoulder for years expecting to be thumped from on high every time I did something wrong.

You see most of us never felt "loved" when we were being punished. We felt overpowered, controlled, dominated and quite often the sense of injustice welled up within us as we did not believe that the punishment fit the crime. The result of it all is that we invented an if/then god (which is a false god) that makes us think that if we do things "right" we will be blessed but if we do things "wrong" we will be punished; just like when we were children.

Yet everything we have studied in Hebrews contradicts that idea of an if/then god where we connect punishment to our "bad" behavior and blessing with our

“good” behavior. What we have learned is that there is only one thing that is pleasing to God and that is faith and what flows from faith (**Hebrews 11:6**) and all our attempts to be “good” are misplaced as only God is good. Besides, clearly God is not all over our every instance of “bad” behavior smacking us on the back of the head trying to get us to be good. Look at David, he did plenty that we would consider to be “bad” behavior, but the Lord seemed to only step in and deal with him in the areas of his faith. This was to keep David from ever relying on his own strength and wisdom or the strength and wisdom of others.

Now, I am in no way condoning “bad” behavior, all I am saying is that our God is not this if/then god who we have served through most of our lives. He is a God who deals with us on only on the basis of faith and His “discipline,” “correction,” or “punishment” is not about our behavior but it is all about our faith.

As the Spirit has done throughout Hebrews, we will draw on the metaphor of the Promised Land to understand this conundrum. For every believer, the Promised Land holds a promise of peace and rest. Therefore, each believer is, at some time or another, confronted with the decision to cross the Jordan River and enter into it; but there is a catch, this Promised Land can only be entered into by faith.

You might think that is reasonable since it was by faith that you were first saved. However, the problem which militates (or fights) against our faith is that on the other side of the Jordan River is a whole slew of enemies, big, mighty, and powerful enemies that live in big mighty fortresses, and what lies before us is war.

Because of this, the first time around, the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land. It did not matter that God had miraculously delivered them from

Egypt with great signs and wonders, it did not matter that He conquered every enemy on the way to the Promised Land, they were always filled with unbelief. As such they were too afraid of their enemies and chose instead to stay in the desert where they thought they would be safe. In fact, they got just what they wanted; they spent the rest of their lives wandering in the desert until they died, never getting to enjoy the promised peace and the rest.

And as we know a lot of believers have similarly chosen to wander in the desert than take on the intense battle that looms in front of them in the Promised Land of their soul. Their enemies, which dwell deep within their soul, seem far too powerful and daunting. And, like the Israelites, they choose to stay in the desert being cared for by God, serving God and the like, but never getting to enjoy the promised peace and the rest. Instead of possessing the land, their enemies run free in the land doing whatever they want.

But once we choose to occupy the land, there is no way around it, we are immediately confronted with the enemies who dwell in the land; enemies that want to not only steal away our peace and rest but hurt us and keep us from safely occupying the Promised Land. In fact, truth be told, our enemies want us dead. They want the land, they want the control, they want to us out of the way, and they want to maintain the rule they have had over us for all these years.

For the Israelites, these enemies were the Hittites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Philistines, and so on; but for us they look like every loft thought that we have which raises itself up against the true knowledge of Christ, and every self-defense mechanism which refuses to let God be God over our lives.

So for us who have entered the Promised Land, this metaphor paints a picture of our dualistic existence and the way our two natures are at war. First there is our *Old Sinful Nature*, which currently dwells in the land and is an enemy of God (**Romans 8:5-8; James 4:4; Galatians 5:17, Ephesians 4:22**); and second there is our new nature, or the **New Creation**, which has been made in the likeness of God, righteous, holy and true (**Ephesians 4:24**) who, like Israel, has full ownership rights to the land but must first occupy it by killing, demolishing, and removing all the enemies of God who dwell in the land.

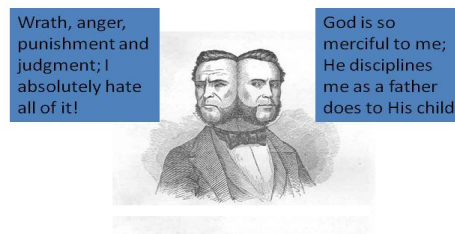
The enemies in the land have always opposed God and have never been willing to follow His ways (they never have and never will); thus, God brings *judgment* against them in the form of *punishment*. And the real practical problem with this is that we, operating from our *Old Sinful Nature*, are that enemy and we do not like to be punished; so we fight it, we loath it, we complain, we make accusations against God, we take it out on others, and so on.

But what we have to understand is the dualistic nature of God's actions. To our *Old Sinful Nature* the suffering which God takes us through is punishment for sure as God is attempting to eradicate the enemies from our land. Each scenario He brings us through is an act of war against a certain enemy and this war won't relent until the targeted enemy is destroyed.

But to our **New Creation** it is an act of mercy and great compassion for when those enemies are conquered our **New Creation** will be able to live free in the land and experience His peace and rest. So our perspective on our suffering all depends upon whether or not we are seeing things from the eyes of the *Old Sinful Nature* or the eyes of the Spirit through the **New Creation**; but from God's

perspective it is all the same which is why the words He uses are all interchangeable. I think this diagram captures what I am trying to convey.

Dualistic Nature of God's Actions



When Jesus speaks to the flesh (our *Old Sinful Nature*) He uses words like wrath, judgment, punishment, etc., but when He speaks to our ***New Creation*** He uses words like love, discipline, chastisement. Words which are all supposed to encourage us to know that God is going before us in this war to conquer our enemies therefore it would be best for us to choose to cooperate with Him. For with this war comes freedom and great victory.

We have learned over and over again through the stories of our great heroes of faith that our suffering, no matter what form it comes in, is never without purpose and it is always measured. I know that is hard to understand and I know it is even harder to accept, no matter how many times we have heard it; but God's goal is always to 1) stop the generational sin that has been passed down to you from your ancestors, 2) to rid you of all the enemies of wrong belief and unbelief that live in your soul, 3) to give Himself to you in order that you can learn to let Him be your God with all its marvelous implications, and 4) to transform you into the image of His Son so you can enjoy your peace and rest.

Therefore, everything that happens in our lives—even great tragedy—must be funneled through this perspective—even all that happened to us as kids. Thus, there is a battle within our minds that we must choose to fight so that way we do not get weary and give up. You see, the *Old Sinful Nature* wants us to internalize everything in a negative way and act like God's "judgment," "punishment," or "wrath" is a bad thing. But it is not at all; well it is a bad thing for our *Old Sinful Nature*. From the perspective of life and peace, however, it is a great thing; it is the only way you are going to experience the abundant life and an ongoing experience with God that will simply blow your mind. It is all necessary if you are going to learn how to walk by faith and not by sight.

From this perspective, any time God goes to war against your *Old Sinful Nature*, it is the ultimate form of mercy. He is not going to let you stay separate from Him; rather, He is going to do everything that it takes to teach you how to enjoy Him, how to experience Him, how to love Him, how to hear from Him, how to receive from Him, and how to let Him live through you.

What do you think the scriptures mean when they say: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us" (**James 4:5**). He wants us and He wants all of us and there is no enemy too small or too hidden to escape His mercy. He wants His Spirit to have full authority and possession over the land for there is to be no nook or cranny where He does not dwell.

Now some of you may be thinking that a lot of your suffering was self-induced and is a direct result of choices you have made and really has nothing to do with God. Things may seem that way, but we also know that God is so big and so gigundus that He causes all things to work together for good to those who love

Him and are called according to His purpose (and as we know according to **Romans 8:28-29** that “good” is our transformation into the image of His Son). So even then what is happening in your life, as a result of your choices, is in His hands and is still measured and tempered to accomplish His great purposes.

So as a believer, our suffering is evidence that God loves us and is treating us as His children as “He punishes each one he accepts as his child.” If God did not discipline us then we would really need to worry for it means that we do not belong to Him. Therefore, the Spirit wants us to eagerly submit to the discipline because in so doing we will be trained how to live by faith; we will be trained how to see God in the midst of all things in our life; we will be trained how not to return to our sin of wrong belief and unbelief; and we will be trained how to fight.

Yes, we will be trained how to win our fight against the enemy: “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (**Ephesians 6:12**).

The Spirit then makes a comparison between our earthly fathers and our heavenly father. Now I know that this comparison does not work for many of you as your experience with your father was less than good. But don’t do an eye roll; try to understand the principle of what the Spirit is trying to communicate to you. The point being that God's discipline is **always good** for us, so that we might share in his holiness; it is always good!

You see the more the enemies are killed, destroyed, and eliminated from the land the more the **New Creation**, which is holy, takes over the territory of your being. Hence, it is through discipline that you share in the Lord’s holiness; holiness

is the fruit that your life will bear when you have been trained by discipline. In addition, this “good” the Spirit talks about is in the present active tense, so it has real time results and we are not just disciplined for something that will bring us future benefit in the afterlife; it is for our now. That is encouraging!

But let’s stop right there. We cannot miss the implications of what the Spirit said: God’s discipline is ***always good***. Keep in mind that the saints of old did not even know that the persecution and oppression they were facing at the hands of the Jews was actually God’s discipline. They just thought the Jews were hard, cruel, and oppressive. They had no frame of reference to understand that what was happening to them was good.

Likewise, I am sure that there is so much that has happened in our lives (and perhaps is currently happening in our lives) that we do not see as the Lord’s discipline or as good; but we write it off as our having to deal with sinful people, hateful people, mean people, and so on. But those who hurt us and oppress us (whether seen or unseen) are just the tool; the hand behind the tool is still our loving Father. And all that He chooses for us is by definition good because God is good.

The death of our *Old Sinful Nature* is always good. Judgment and punishment for the enemies of God is always good. We must let our minds wrap around this concept. It is at the core of what it means to fear the Lord, which as we learned in the “How God Speaks” series is just the beginning of the knowledge of God. It is the starting gate in our race, so to speak, on our journey to obtain the wisdom of God for our lives. It is also the key to enjoying real friendship with God.

So if you need the wisdom of God for your life, according to ***Proverbs 2:5, 9:10*** and ***Psalms 111:10***, the starting gate is the fear of the Lord. And according to ***Proverbs 8:13***, the fear of the Lord is to hate all evil; to hate all that does not derive from God. In other words we are to hate—literally hate—all the enemies of wrong belief and unbelief that dwell within our soul no matter what manner they show up in our lives. It could be coping mechanisms, it could be our own idolatry, it could be our anger and disappointment with God, or whatever (I am sure the list is long); regardless, they all need to become vile to us. Again, we must wrap our heads, and therefore our choices, around this truth. It will lead to real time goodness.

As I have been working through some of my own adventures in discipline, I realized that in our passage last week when it said that Jesus despised the shame it meant that he hated the shame. The shame was not from God and so He hated it and He chose to embrace the cross, knowing that His reward was waiting for Him.

In other words, the shame would have kept Him from moving forward in what God had planned for Him; He would have been too wrapped up in what everyone was going to think of Him. You have to remember that in those times dying on a tree (whether hanging or crucifixion) was considered to be utterly shameful. But instead of letting the shame impact Him, He chose to hate it ignoring what people might say or think of Him for centuries to come and went forward with the Father's plan without hesitation or regret.

That is the attitude the Spirit wants you to have. He wants you to hate the shame, or whatever it is that your enemies within your soul are asking you to hold on to. He wants you to embrace, without regret, the process that God is taking

you through to make you more like Him, all the while knowing that you will share in His holiness.

Now there is one thing I have to make clear, Jesus did not enjoy the cross. He did not enjoy the scourging, the mocking, the beating, and so on. Not one bit. In the same way, the Spirit is not asking us to enjoy what God takes us through. He does not want us to pretend and be all fake and stuff. He wants us to be real. If it hurts, then let it hurt. If it is miserable, then it is ok; there is a time for being miserable. If it evokes sadness, then be sad. But, with that said, you must not let your pain or sadness turn into raw bitterness, anger, or hate towards God. Instead, embrace the reality that you are so privileged to be chosen to be an object of God's great mercy and that soon you will experience freedom. Remember, your suffering is measured; it will end.

Look at what the Spirit says: "afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." This guarantees that if you let yourself be trained in this manner you will, in you're here and now (it is in the present active tense), enjoy the benefits of the Promised Land. The Spirit is telling us that it is all worth it. The reward in this life is so wonderful that destroying our enemies is completely worth the years that we have to spend at war.

Now, I want you to consider the inverse implications of this statement. It means that there are also those who will refuse to let themselves be trained in this way. They will fight, they will resist, and they will absolutely refuse to let God have His way. Maybe they don't value the reward. Maybe they don't believe there will ever be a reward, but just more and more pain. Maybe they hate their new pain so much that they would rather bail on the war and go back to the old

pain with which they are so comfortable; the pain with which they have learned to survive. Maybe, when it all comes down to it, they really just love the enemies that are in their land (which a lot of people do) and are unwilling to let them die.

Am I describing you? Let me tell you, that is an awful place to live. You crossed over into the Promised Land, you started down the pathway of peace, but you instead choose to forego the war and live with the enemies. Just go back and read **Judges** through **2nd Chronicles** and maybe, just maybe you might think twice about leaving the enemies in your land. It's not a good thing. Those books were written so we might learn and choose to do things differently.

Now the final part of this passage is a bit different in the New Living Bible than in the New American Standard or the ESV. In the New Living it says: "So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong." The other versions say: so that which is lame may not be put out of joint but rather healed." Since this is a quote from **Isaiah 35** and that passage is about helping others verses helping ourselves, I prefer the New Living approach.

We have to understand that there are others on this journey of faith. They may have a different race, but we are all going around the track together. The Spirit is telling us to adjust our mindset, know what is happening, know why God is taking us through such difficulty, embrace it and then continue to head down our track without deviation so that way anyone who is following our lead will not stumble about and be injured, but may also find healing.

This is critical to remember. It is never "me" and God but it is always "we" and God. There are others who are watching, always watching. They want to see this

stuff played out for real in your life so they can be likewise be convinced “why” it is worthwhile to continue to head down this path. In the same way that the Old Testament saints are witnesses to our walk of faith and we are to look to their example, others look to our example and we are a witness over their lives. We have to always keep that in mind. Our lives are intertwined with others and we can help them make it. Let’s read the passage in *Isaiah* from where this is quoted.

Isaiah 35:3-10

With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived.

And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there. Lions will not lurk along its course, nor any other ferocious beasts. There will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will walk on it. Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy.

Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

You see it is worth it. The prize that is set before us, the reward, is amazing. This is not fiction; this is the Word of God. If we continue and let God destroy our enemies, we will reach a place of peace and rest and there will be no other dangers. We will be filled with joy and gladness. This is a promise and we need to hold on to it in the midst of our troubles. It is intended to help us make it through our darkest hours.

Now do you remember how at the very beginning of this passage the Spirit compared our journey to that of Jesus and basically told us to stop acting like a bunch of babies since we have not yet given our lives in our struggle against sin? He kind of does the same thing in this passage. He wants us to know that what we are going through is not only necessary but it will birth in our lives something so wonderful that we just need to take a grip, and we need to move forward because others are following close behind.

This idea of making a straight path for our feet is an encouragement for us to not get off track and go down those roads of anger, bitterness, extreme frustration, self-pity, or any other place that we are tempted to go. The Spirit wants us to hold our line of faith because those other paths will make those who follow us stumble and fall.

The picture is that we are on a track that is groomed and well cared for (remember, we are still in the Grecian Games metaphor from last week), but the off shoots we can take will not be groomed ground. Therefore those who are

weak and weary will easily stumble over the rocks, and rough terrain. They will follow in our anger, bitterness, frustration, and self-pity and it will eat them up. So we must not indulge our flesh in such a way and instead set our face like flint to endure what God has set before us so they won't be hurt by our choices.

I would like us to also read a passage from ***Lamentations 3*** which captures the expressions of Jeremiah who went through extreme suffering but in the midst of it somehow reconciled all that he was going through with the goodness and mercy of God. This is also a small extract of the passage God spoke over my life 9 or 10 years ago when He started my storm, my intense time of discipline.

Lamentations 3:19-33

The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" The Lord is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline:

Let them sit alone in silence beneath the Lord's demands. Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last. Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them and accept the insults of their enemies. For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows

compassion because of the greatness of his unfailing love. For he does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow.

Like Jeremiah I can say that I will never forget the awful time I have endured; it is painful even to read this passage, the memories are simply terrible. Yet, I have also learned how good, marvelous, compassionate, merciful, and patient God is. I wish I could say that I learned all of this through example, but I didn't. I had to experience it. Unfortunately, I did not read this passage and choose to sit alone in silence beneath the Lord's demands submitting to His yoke of discipline. No I fought, I resisted, I vented, I raged, and I did everything that we are not supposed to do and made my time of discipline that much worse.

But God would not relent. He wanted me. He wanted it all. Therefore, He let me kick and scream until I wore myself out and finally learned how to endure with expectation and hope believing that "the Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" He wanted me to rest in His goodness and faithfulness even in the midst of my great storm.

He wanted me to mark out a straight path for my feet and continue on while he digs even deeper (most recently to remove even those pockets of shame which have controlled my life). He knew that He would have others who would follow in my footsteps and He wanted them to be safe; He did not want me to be a cause for their stumbling.

God is faithful and He is ever so thorough. And I for one am thankful that He is. He is my inheritance; He is who I want. Yes, I am ready for the glory and the time of respite from my suffering, but I am also willing to now submit to His yoke of

discipline knowing that although he brings grief, He also shows compassion because of the greatness of His unfailing love. He does not take joy in hurting me; it has just been necessary. The enemies within my soul must be killed and my Father is faithful to keep His promise to eradicate every last one of them; all that stands between Him and me.

That is the same thing He wants to do with you. I know that sometimes it sounds harrowing, but believe me it is worth it. If I could go back and choose to avoid my storm, I would not. What I have received and enjoyed in terms of my experience with God is beyond anything I could have ever imagined 9-10 years ago. It is worth it; let Him have His way with you. You will not regret it!

Therefore, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." "The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease."

Let's Pray.