

April 21, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Heb. 12:11 *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. (NIV)*

One facet of real and abundant life is found in today's scripture. It is the one simple word, discipline. The Greek word is **paideia** which means *training, instruction or correction*. It was typically used in association with the rearing of a child. As God's children, we will have times of discipline that come from the hand and heart of the Father. He doesn't treat us with anger or frustration as we sometimes do with our children. Instead, His discipline comes from a heart of great love and compassion. He sees the total picture from beginning to end, and He knows what we need.

I cannot remember one time when I was disciplined as a child or youth, that I thought - 'Wow, thanks so much for that correction. I know I really needed it!' I can tell you, when I received the correction, it wasn't pleasant at the time! And, it shouldn't be, because it is there to change the direction of the way we are going. It takes more love to correct a child or an adult, than it does to just leave them to their own devices. The LORD loves us more than anyone else could ever love us!

What is the result of this training or discipline? It produces a harvest of righteousness and peace. Hmm... That's sounds like real and abundant life to me. There is no greater sense of this life than when we are walking along the path that the LORD has laid out for us. His blessings will follow, and His grace will abound.

Dear LORD, thank You for loving me enough to not let me stay like I am. I need Your instruction and correction in my life. Help me to count it joy when I face trials because I know that You are at work in me, to change me from me, into the likeness of Your Son. In Jesus Name, Amen