

The Chastisement of Sons

Joseph Herrin (03-24-2012)

Two days ago I broke my leg again; the same leg that I had just spent six months healing. I knew the purpose of this experience the moment it occurred. I would share it with you that you might walk in the fear of the Lord.

In the book of James we read:

James 5:16

Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart].

[Amplified Bible]

I entreat your prayers for a quick healing as I have much to accomplish at this season. Yet, my foremost desire is that I would walk in victory over an area of besetting sin in which I have often stumbled and have not yet been perfected in the sight of my Father in heaven. Would you pray for me?

Things had been going very well for me lately. I had been relishing the mobility of being able to walk and ride my bicycle again. The Father had sent a brother to fix the brakes on my bus that had been locked up, and I was able to drive the bus and travel in it. In other ways I had also been blessed, and had a sense of liberty and freedom, but in my liberty I grew careless. I am more prone to walk carelessly before God when things are going well than when I am in times of struggle, poverty, and affliction. A perfected son will walk faithfully in whatever circumstances he finds himself. He will be just as faithful to seek God when he is abounding, as when he is abased; when he is fully satisfied, as when he is in need.

Yahweh is seeking to bring forth perfected sons in this hour. The goal for which the church has been aiming is far lower than that which Yahweh has set forth as His desire. Christians are content to attain a little victory, while there are still many strongholds of the adversary and many enemies in the land of their flesh. Like the children of Israel, the church today has fallen short of driving out and subduing every enemy in the land. Is it not clear from history that this failure led to terrible loss among the nation of Israel? What God had given to them was consumed by their enemies. A free people were sold into bondage, showing forth a parable of that which occurs in our lives when we grow content with a little victory and no longer press in fervently to establish within us the kingdom of God in peace and righteousness.

As a teacher to the body of Christ, I am held to a stricter judgment.

James 3:1-2

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways.

I had always thought that the “stricter judgment” would be at the judgment seat of Christ. I am learning that this stricter judgment is also for this present moment. If we are careless in our walk, God will discipline us, and those who are teachers will be held to a tighter accountability. The apostle Paul understood this. Despite his many victories, his great suffering for Christ, and his unflinching obedience, he knew that if he were to let down his guard and become careless he could quickly lose the good things Yahweh had appointed for him.

I Corinthians 9:26-27

Therefore I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary. But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit]. [Amplified Bible]

There is no place to become complacent, nor to let down our guard, as we walk with Christ. We have an adversary who roams about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Our flesh will also rise up at every opportunity should the spirit man become lazy. Yahweh has promised us that we need never fall to temptation and sin. His grace is always sufficient to enable us to walk victoriously as overcomers, keeping the flesh under subjection.

I had become complacent in this area of late. During my convalescence I had put on weight. Being confined and largely immobile I should have reduced my food intake, yet I reasoned that I could lose the weight when I regained mobility and could walk and ride my bicycle again. After I regained mobility I continued to eat more than was good for me. The Father had disciplined me before in this area, quite severely. I knew the will of the Father, and I was not walking in it.

Ephesians 5:15

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise...

On Thursday I had gone to a neighboring town to take care of some errands. I love Chinese food, and there is a Chinese mega buffet restaurant there. I was right next door to this restaurant and I thought how wonderful it would be to eat there. For a brief moment I considered that there was another restaurant down the street that had much healthier food, and it came in measured portions instead of the endless helpings of a buffet. I quickly dismissed the thought, choosing to sate my flesh’s appetite for Oriental food.

I got a plate and went to the buffet. I began by getting some salmon, and some of the crispy long green beans that are served on these buffets. These are items I enjoy and they are healthy. Then I proceeded to put some fried rice on my plate and garnish it with several different dishes mainly consisting of chicken, broccoli and mushrooms. This was not as good, but still not terribly unhealthy. I did not stop there, however, I added a spring roll and an eggroll to my plate (both fried) and a couple of stuffed mushrooms which I am sure have a fairly high fat content.

With my plate heaping with food, I returned to my table. I was standing on carpet while wearing tennis shoes, and I swivelled my body to swing into the bench when I felt a sharp snap in my lower

left leg (the tibia). I immediately thought, "I think my leg just snapped." As I sat down in the booth I found that my appetite had fled and I was suddenly very meditative and focused on the Father. (Discipline should have this effect upon us.)

I considered that I was acting in disobedience by choosing to eat as I was. The Father had twice helped me to get down to 165 pounds, but I had failed to maintain that weight. I knew He had set that as a goal for me. Some years back I had experienced a heart attack. This also occurred after eating Chinese food, for I tended to sate myself on it, eating more than was needed for my body to function. I immediately saw a connection and knew Yahweh was disciplining me.

As I looked at the table in front of me my attention was drawn to the napkin dispenser. It was not sitting straight, but was leaning over. It was made to rest on four rubber feet, but one of the feet was missing. The words of the apostle Paul came to mind.

Hebrews 12:11-13

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

"Straight paths for your feet..." I was in the process of turning when I felt the bone snap. I was not walking the straight and narrow that Yahweh had instructed me to walk. I had become careless once more in ruling over the appetites of my flesh. Yahweh would have His sons to be perfect. As a teacher I must practice what I preach or the Father will discipline me.

I am reminded of a sermon I heard many years ago. The minister said that if a shepherd had a sheep that continually strayed he would break the lamb's leg. He would then carry the lamb on his shoulders when traveling, and he would set it down when they arrived at their destination. Because of the broken leg, the lamb could not go far and would stay close to the shepherd. When the lamb's leg was healed, this behavior was now habit and the sheep would not stray anymore.

I do not know how accurate this account is, but it seems to be a fitting description for the way our Father deals with His sons. It is because Yahweh loves us that He injures us. He is seeking to teach us righteousness, and to incite us to rise up in spirit and rule over the flesh. I have no complaint for what Yahweh has done. The discipline was deserved. I want to share His holiness and I do not want to incur grievous loss on the day when we must all give an account.

I have been a very wayward and fleshly son, and my Father has been patient and proactive in bringing discipline to me. I know His heart is not one of a wrathful judge looking for someone to smite. Rather, His heart is that of a loving Father who wants His children to be qualified to share an inheritance with His firstborn Son. We will all receive reward according to what we have done. God will not be mocked. We will reap what we sow. It is the overcomers who will receive the reward of an overcomer.

Because my Father does not want me to suffer loss, He has continued to deal with me as a son. He

has scourged me, and will do so again. He has made my leg lame for a season to teach me to walk more carefully. I want to learn the lesson. I want to be approved by Him, and to be a vessel of honor in His house.

I share these things sensing a need to confess my faults, being transparent with the body of Christ regarding my struggles and failures. At the same time, I share these things that you also might walk in the fear of God. In this hour the Father must bring sons forth to perfection. He must accelerate the pace of our maturity. If we are careless, or complacent, He must stir us up by whatever means necessary to urge us to be fervent in spirit. "Woe to those who are at ease in Zion."

There is grace in this chastisement. I am able to walk on the leg, but I cannot do so very far. I incurred a hairline fracture. The bone was not displaced. It will heal quickly if I take care of it and do not try to do too much too soon. I was far too active the past two days as there is much I want to do. I am experiencing the consequences today as the leg is swollen and quite sore. I still have the crutches and walking boot from my previous injury. Also, George, the brother in Christ who is staying with me was a truck driver for many years and he is able to drive my bus for me. All these things are measures of grace given to me by the Father.

The Father reveals His will perfectly. I was pondering today that the Father did not discipline me as I walked into the Chinese restaurant. He did not do so when I had put the salmon and vegetables on my plate. He waited until I had loaded it up with foods I knew I did not need to eat, and more than was necessary to meet my physical requirements. Only when I was fully committed to this act of disobedience and was about to sit down to gorge myself and sate my flesh did the stroke fall. He is perfect in all His ways. I was not left to wonder why this happened. My heart immediately convicted me.

Let us encourage one another to walk in the fear of Yahweh.

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.

The flesh must be presented on the altar for the flames to consume it. Our Father wants us to present to Him a freewill offering, willing keeping the flesh under subjection. May we all avail ourselves of the grace of God.

Thank you for your prayers.

Addendum: I often receive comments from people after posting some writing on Yahweh's discipline. Some are offended at the suggestion that God would inflict injury or suffering on one of His children. I offer here an excerpt from the writing titled *The Necessary Fear of God*.

Why has the church of our day fallen to the depths in which it is mired? Why does it fit the description that Paul and Yahshua and others gave of it? I am convinced that one of the greatest reasons is that there is no longer any fear of God before the eyes of man. The church has rewritten

the image of God in a manner that allows for sin to be tolerated and for evil to be winked at. They have taught a grace that is cheap, and they have embraced fables and myths about heaven, judgment, and the following ages that leads to careless living. They have embraced the kindness of God, and rejected the severity of His character.

In the early days of the church God brought swift judgment on sin and it caused the body of believers to walk carefully for a season, knowing the fear of God. We read the following from the book of Acts.

Acts 5:4-5, 9-11

4 Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came upon all who heard of it...

9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they shall carry you out as well "

10 And she fell immediately at his feet, and breathed her last; and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard of these things.
(NAS)

The effect of the great fear that came upon the church was that the church walked very carefully before God. The result of this holy walk was that the reputation of the church was very great, verse thirteen of this same chapter states that "the people held them in high esteem." This is quite the opposite of the church today. Today the church is a laughingstock, a derision, and its reputation and esteem in the eyes of the world is very low. This is not because they fail to preach Christ. Rather it is because they hold to a form of godliness, but deny the power of true godliness.

It has been recently reported in America that the divorce rate is 60% WITHIN the church. This is a higher percentage than outside the church. This is the result of a message of cheap grace that says "God wants you to be happy. Even if you divorce your spouse, God will forgive you. You need not be concerned about this being sin." It is a result of the church not fearing God. If a few people who espoused this cheap grace suddenly dropped dead, I guarantee that things would change quickly. Such was the atmosphere of the early church in Jerusalem.

I can state without equivocation that there is no holiness apart from a fear of God. I can say this not only from my own experience, but from the scriptures. It may be the kindness of God that leads men to repentance, but it is the fear of God that makes them holy. The fear of God is just what it says, it is FEAR of God. It is not just a reverent respect as some teach. A reverent respect will not cause men to turn away from sin, but a real holy terror of the awesome and righteous nature of God will lead men to holiness. Does such a feeling of fear and terror have a place in the church of the New Testament? Examine the following verses.

II Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(NAS)

II Corinthians 5:10-11

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...

(KJV)

Romans 11:20-22

20 Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;

21 for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.

22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

(NAS)

Hebrews 10:26-31

26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

(NAS)

These things were written to the church, not the lost. Some may ask, "Why then does John say that perfect love casts out all fear?" The answer should be plain. If we walk in obedience we have no reason to fear, but if we walk in disobedience we have much to fear. John said this was his meaning when he stated,

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment...

(NAS)

If you are perfected in love then you will not sin and you will have no reason to fear any punishment. In the very next chapter John states, "We know that no one who is born of God sins" (I John 5:18).

Is John teaching sinless perfection? He is stating that living a sinless life should indeed be the goal of every believer. We should not make any provision for the flesh (Romans 13:14). What does this mean? If you develop a mindset that says, "It is no big deal if I sin. I can just confess my sin and receive forgiveness", then you have made a provision for the flesh. You have made a way for the flesh to do what it desires without any repercussions. This is simply delusion, no matter how many pastors are preaching it. The word of God says,

Galatians 6:7-8

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

(NIV)

Yes, if we do stumble and sin then we do have an advocate with the Father. We can confess our sin to God and He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9). But let us never make this a license to sin. God judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart and He will not be mocked. He will not tolerate one of His children trampling under foot the Son of God, or treating as unclean the blood of the covenant, or insulting the Spirit of grace. Yes there is great grace, but we can also insult, or offend the Spirit of grace. We do this by carelessly sinning with no fear of the consequences. We do this by thinking sin in our life is of no, or very little, consequence.

Did you note the scriptures above that said, "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries?" Where is this preached today? What does this mean, "a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries?" Will Christians experience the lake of fire? The scriptures show plainly that many of them will.

Luke 12:45-46

45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers."

(NAS)

Perhaps you cannot identify too well with what is being said here. When Yahshua speaks of a servant beating the slaves, He is speaking of someone who does not treat his brother and sister with love. When He speaks of them eating and drinking and getting drunk, He is speaking of a person who has given themselves over to a pursuit of pleasure. We could easily rewrite this scripture in the following manner.

But if that servant of mine says in his heart, 'My master's appearing will certainly not be anytime soon,' and begins to treat others unkindly and abusively, both men and women, and to pursue those things that bring him or her pleasure...

What is it that brings some people pleasure. Some do find it in food and drink and drunkenness. Others may find it in putting away a spouse that is difficult to live with and finding one whom they find to be more pleasant. Some may find it in accumulating new cars and a big house, boats and golf clubs and all manner of things that please the flesh. Again, God weighs the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. It may be quite alright for a man to fish, but if his fishing becomes an idol in his life, then it will bring judgment. You may ask, "How can I tell if it has become an idol?" One good answer I heard is, "If it causes you to react desperately at the thought of giving it up, then it has become an idol." One must let God's Spirit lead us into such a determination. The Spirit can use the Word of truth to divide between soul and spirit and to reveal the thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

But what does this scripture mean when it says that the wicked servant will be assigned a portion with the unbelievers? Again, the scriptures reveal the answer.

Revelation 21:8

"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

(NAS)

Here we see clearly what the portion of the unbeliever is. They will be cast into the lake of fire that will burn away all that is not of God. The scriptures reveal that many saints will share this portion with the unbelievers. (For further study of the purpose of the lake of fire please read '*God's Plan of the Ages*,' found at the website <http://heart4god.ws>). The following scripture is written to the church, and it says that it is the overcomer, not all saints, who will be spared from this judgment.

Revelation 2:11

'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'

(NAS)

According to the gospel of cheap grace, the gospel being widely proclaimed today, no saints will experience the purging of the lake of fire. If Yahshua meant to say that all those who named His name would not be hurt by the second death, which is the lake of fire, He would have said so plainly. He did not say this, however, even when He was addressing the church of Smyrna. No, He said "He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." This is quite different than "all believers". Looking further in the book of Revelation, we read:

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of [Yahshua] and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the

first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

(NAS)

Who has a part in the first resurrection, over whom the second death (the lake of fire) has no power? It is those who are blessed and holy. Who are the blessed? A reading of the sermon of the mount will reveal many of those who are blessed. It is those who suffer for the name of Christ. It is those who are persecuted for His name. It is those who are poor and hungry and who suffer shame for His name. It also says "holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection." Need we ask who the holy are? They are those who are holy. They have separated themselves from the world and the pursuit of it. They have taken up the cross, dying to the desires of the soul. They are the ones who have crucified the flesh with its lusts and desires. Is this all Christians? Absolutely not.

Matthew 8:11-12

11 "And I say to you, that many shall come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven;

12 but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(NAS)

Matthew 22:13-14

13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

(NAS)

Matthew 25:30

"And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(NAS)

Who are the servants and slaves of God and Christ? They are not the lost, but those of God's own household. Paul identified himself as a bond servant of Yahshua. It is these who are here being spoken of, not the lost. There are many of God's own children who will be found to be lacking in the hour that God inspects His servants and asks for an accounting of them. Many will experience weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Do not think that because you have been born again and you name the name of Christ that this alone is sufficient and you can live any way you please. God will not be mocked. We will all reap according to what we have sown. Yahshua said, "Behold, I come quickly and My reward is with Me to render to every man according to what he has done."

There will be no universal reward. Each man will receive according to what HE has done. Our reward will not even be based upon what Christ has done. It is based upon what we have done. Paul tells us that each man's work will be tested by fire to see if he has built with gold, silver, and

precious stones, or if he has built with wood, hay, and stubble. The fire will test the quality of each man's work. Many will suffer great loss.

I Corinthians 3:15-17

15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If any man defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

(NAS)

Does any saint desire to be saved in this manner, suffering the loss of all reward? Does any saint want to experience what is spoken of here as a just reward for defiling the temple of God? These words should make the saint of God pause and take note. Paul said that "knowing the terror of God, we persuade men." Where is this preached today? Because this severe side of God is not preached, the church has become corrupt and full of defilement. The saints of God lead unholy and sensual lives without regard for the consequences. But the scriptures state that there will be consequences, and they will be severe.

How does a saint defile or destroy the temple of God, which temple they are? They do it by bringing that which is unholy into the temple. Can you picture the temple of Solomon or the Tabernacle of Moses. Two of Aaron's sons were destroyed for offering unholy fire on the altar. If God was this zealous for a temple made by the hands of man, how much more zealous is He for the temple He has constructed of living flesh?

In the gospels we see that the greatest emotion and anger that Christ displayed was when He entered the Temple and found it defiled. It was spoken of Him, "Zeal for My Father's house will consume Me." Was Yahshua concerned about a physical building? Absolutely not. He was concerned for what it represented. We are the true temple of God. We are the temple in which the Spirit of God dwells. Yahshua is consumed with a zeal for these temples of our bodies and He will act with great zeal to cleanse them. If any man has defiled the temple, he will be destroyed.

Yahshua said, "It is written, 'And My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a robbers' den" (Luke 19:46). It is the temples of our bodies that are to be houses of prayer. Our bodies are to be places of communion with God. The anger of God is unleashed against those who treat the temple of God as an unholy thing.

In this account from the gospels we also discern that men defile the temple through traffic, commerce, and trade. Man was created for fellowship and communion with God, but man has taken the temple of his body which was to be a meeting place between the spirit of man and the Spirit of God and he has filled it with the traffic of the merchandise of the world. The temples of flesh which were designed to be houses of prayer have become houses of merchandise.

It is not by accident that the living temple of God has become full of the noise and traffic of commerce. Satan has duplicated his own error in the lives of mankind. Ezekiel chapter 28 describes

the fall of Satan in this way:

Ezekiel 28:18

"You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading..."
(NKJ)

Ezekiel 28:18

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries...
(NIV)

Ezekiel 28:18

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick...
(KJV)

Yes, Satan brought traffic and trading into the sanctuaries of God and thereby profaned and defiled them. What was to be a place of worship and prayer became full of the commerce of the world. Even so, our bodies are the temples of God and they are to be places of prayer and communion with the Father. However, the majority of the saints of God have also profaned and defiled their sanctuaries. Their lives are lives of traffic and trading as they pursue the things the world has to offer. Rather than being still and knowing the God who has created them, they rush about trying to acquire the latest toy or trendy piece of merchandise. In all of their activity, prayer and communion with God has been neglected.

Will not Yahshua deal as severely with these violators of their temples as He did in driving the merchandisers out of the Temple 2000 years ago? Yahshua is still consumed with a zeal for His Father's house and He still longs to see it function as a house of prayer. This speaks of you and I, the children of God.

The day is coming very soon when God's judgment will fall on this world and its system of merchandise and trade. Many will be caught unaware, including the majority of those who are of the household of God. Yahshua prophetically foretold of the suddenness of which His appearing would come on the world and the lack of readiness of even those who are called by His name.

Luke 17:26-30

26 "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man:
27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage,
until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 "It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they
were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;

29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and
destroyed them all.

30 "It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed."

(NAS)

What was the focus of the people in Noah's day and Lot's day? They were focused on the pursuit

of the things of the world. Missing from the description is any indication that they were praying, or communing with God, or pursuing the righteousness without which none shall see God. No, they were marrying, they were eating and drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building.

This describes the lives of those who are found in the churches that bear Christ's name today. The children of God are looking forward to the next food fest. They are focused on their next acquisition of the merchandise of this world. They are focused on selling their wares that they might generate more money to spend on their pleasures. They are focused on the next building project, whether in their own home or in the church itself. The house of prayer has become a house of merchandise.

And Yahshua is soon to return.

Many of the saints of God are anticipating Yahshua coming back to take them from the pursuit of the pleasures here on Earth and to transplant them into the realm of heaven where they will know uninterrupted pleasure forevermore. When Yahshua came the first time He was anticipated to appear in a manner altogether different from the way in which He came. For this reason we are told that "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). I am convinced that His second appearing will be no different.

The saints of God are anxiously awaiting the appearing of Christ, but they have not discerned that His appearing will be to the sorrow of many.

Amos 5:18-23

18 Alas, you who are longing for the day of [Yahweh], for what purpose will the day of [Yahweh] be to you? It will be darkness and not light;

19 As when a man flees from a lion, and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, and a snake bites him.

20 Will not the day of [Yahweh] be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?

21 "I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies...

23 "Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps."
(NAS)

Joel 1:15-16

15 Alas for the day! For the day of [Yahweh] is near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Has not food been cut off before our eyes, gladness and joy from the house of our God?
(NAS)

Joel 2:1-2

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of [Yahweh] is coming; surely it is near,

2 A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.
(NAS)

Many today are saying that they long for the Lord's appearing, but they do not understand that He will come as a thresher of wheat to separate out the chaff; to make a distinction between the holy and the vile. Yahshua will come back and He will steal away those who have made themselves ready, those who have allowed Him to purify and refine them and clothe them in garments of righteousness. Those who were sleeping and who were pursuing the things of the world, those who have allowed the traffic of the world to defile and profane their sanctuaries will receive the scourging of the Lord. They will be left behind and endure the day of the Lord's wrath as He cleanses the temple once again. As it was in the days of Noah and the days of Lot, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

The church of the last days has embraced many myths and fables whose effect has been to remove the fear of God from before their eyes. The teaching of a universal rapture is one such fable. It has led many saints to mistakenly believe that no matter how they are living their lives now, when Yahshua comes for the saints they will all instantly be caught up to be with Him and they will spend eternity with Him in heaven. Nowhere is such a concept found in scripture. We have read clearly that it is the saint who overcomes who will not be touched by the second death, which is the Lake of Fire. Many saints will indeed share a portion with the unbelievers and they will taste the second death. Because they have not allowed God to purge, purify, and refine them in this life, they will have to endure the purifying of the lake of fire. (Again, I would direct the interested saint to read the article "God's Plan of the Ages" found at <http://heart4god.ws> to gain a greater understanding of the Lake of Fire and its function of purification).

The church has heaped up to itself teachers in accord with her own desires in this day. This was clearly a sign that Paul said would attend the last days. The church wants to pursue the things of the world. The church wants to be allowed to sin and find a cheap grace to atone for it. The church wants to believe that there will be no repercussions to those who fail to sanctify themselves and walk in holiness before God. For this reason she has gathered teachers to herself who will tell her these things. We are truly in the last days and this is what is occurring.

The church has failed to walk holy before God. She has embraced false doctrines that say God wants to fulfill the lusts of man, that God wants to satisfy every man's desire for monetary prosperity and to be increased with the goods of the world. They have embraced the lie that says that God exists to bless them and fulfill their selfish longings. Multitudes of ministers today are equating worldly gain with godliness. They equate prosperity with faith, and poverty with unbelief. This is simply a demonstration of carnal doctrines devised to support man's love of the world. The scriptures teach no such thing.

It is because there is no fear of God before the eyes of the church that she has embraced so many errors. If the church truly feared God she would be much more careful to discern the difference between truth and falsehood. Because the church has little fear of God and of the consequences of failing to walk in truth, there has been little resistance to keep deception out of her midst. In the same way, in the lives of individual believers, a very real fear of God is necessary to keep them from carelessly engaging in sin or drifting into error. A love for God is not sufficient. It must be attended by a fear of God as well.

As a case in point, one can look at the life of King David. David truly loved God and had a heart after God. David was the King who established the Tabernacle of praise and worship that went on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. David wrote numerous Psalms of praise and he is often referred to as the sweet psalmist of Israel. But even with all of his love for God, David was at times not careful to show proper honor to God and his love for God was insufficient to keep him from falling into gross sin. It required David learning a fear of God to deliver him from these errors and failings.

We read in scriptures where David desired to bring the Ark of the Covenant up to Jerusalem. David loved God and desired for His presence to be near to him. As the Ark was being brought up to Jerusalem David was greatly rejoicing and praising God. However, David had failed to show proper respect for God's holiness even in the midst of his praise. God had given instructions through Moses as to how the Ark was to be transported. It was to be carried on poles on the shoulders of Levite priests. David had been transporting it on a new cart built specifically for the occasion.

God was displeased that He was not be honored with obedience. Even though all the people were praising God, God was not being honored for His instructions were not being carried out. When the oxen pulling the cart nearly turned it over at one point, Uzzah the priest reached out his hand to steady the cart, and as he did so God immediately killed him. It was forbidden to touch the Ark in such a manner.

How often do such things occur today? How many times even in the midst of praise and worship does the church fail to sanctify God and show Him the proper honor? I think the church would be amazed if they understood how detestable much of their activity is to him, activity that is intended to show our love for Him. As Amos recorded God's words, "I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies... Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps."

It was not acceptable unto God for David and all Israel to praise God and to show such delight in His presence, but to do so according to their terms. David did not discern God's holiness. He did not have a proper fear of God. We are told that when God killed Uzzah that David became angry with God. David could not understand why God had rejected their sincere, but disobedient efforts. Was it not enough to God that David and the people loved God? Was it not enough that they were praising Him with all sincerity? Evidently it was not.

David refused to carry the Ark any further. He left the Ark where it was at the home of Obed-Edom. We read an enlightening thing here.

II Samuel 6:8-9

8 And David became angry because of [Yahweh's] outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.

9 So David was afraid of [Yahweh] that day; and he said, "How can the ark of [Yahweh] come to me?"

(NAS)

Although David did not understand the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, David learned the fear of God

that day. This fear led to David correcting his disobedience and walking obediently before God in this matter. David's love of God led him to praise God, but David's fear of God led to obedience. After a period of time the report came to David that God was blessing the household of Obed-Edom, so David was encouraged to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. This time, knowing the fear of God, he acted in obedience.

I Chronicles 15:1-2, 11, 13

1 Now David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it.

2 Then David said, "No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites; for [Yahweh] chose them to carry the ark of God, and to minister to Him forever..."

11 Then David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab,

12 and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' households of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of [Yahweh] God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it.

13 "Because you did not carry it at the first, [Yahweh] our God made an outburst on us, for we did not seek Him according to the ordinance."

(NAS)

A tremendous revelation can be gleaned from this passage. Without the fear of God, people will not be careful to discern what God's will is, and they will fail to walk in a manner acceptable to God. Having a heart after God and a love for God is not enough. David had to learn a fear of God in order to come to the place where he would diligently seek to know God's mind in a matter. His lack of fear led to carelessness and resulted in death.

This is true of the church today. Because there is little fear of God among the body of Christ, people are not pressing in to discern what God's will is for their lives and they have a very casual attitude towards walking obediently before God. Even though the saints may love God, their love is insufficient to lead them to walk in a manner that is pleasing to God. Even in the midst of praise and worship they can be found to be deficient and displeasing to God.

Again, in another incident in David's life, we find that he lacked a proper fear of God and it led him to sin, committing both adultery and murder. God's discipline of David for this breach was most severe, and only as David learned to fear God's holiness and righteous anger was he delivered and set free.

In a similar way, believers today need to discern the fear of God in order to turn away from sin. Paul instructs us in II Corinthians 7:1, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." It is the fear of God that leads us to holiness.

If you are dealing with a besetting sin, if you have struggled to have victory in an area of your life, and you have cried out to God over and over for deliverance, then you most likely have not learned the fear of God in your life. You can sincerely love God and yet find that victory and deliverance

eludes you. It is when we experience God's judgments and learn His fear that righteousness is produced in our lives.

Isaiah 26:9

With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. (NKJ)

If you desire to walk in a manner pleasing to the Lord, then the greatest thing you can do is to ask for His judgments in your life. In receiving His judgments you will learn righteousness. It may require that God bring discipline to your life to teach you to properly fear Him, but the end result will be the peaceful fruit of righteousness upon your life. David learned to love God's judgments and to seek them. Psalm 119 is a wonderful testimony of this righteous man's love of God's judgments in his life. David also prayed,

Psalms 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties;
24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (NKJ)

Many saints fail to recognize God's judgments in their lives. They walk in oblivion, ignorant of the hand of God upon them. They therefore do not respond to the discipline they receive and they have no fear of God. In the book of I Corinthians Paul spoke to the saints about taking the Lord's supper in an improper manner. He said because they partook of it improperly many had fallen ill and some had even died. I am sure that some failed to make the connection between these deaths and illnesses until Paul pointed it out. In the same way, many saints today are experiencing such things without a clue as to why. They need to discern God's chastening hand upon them.

Paul gives us these words, "For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives" (Hebrews 12:6). In receiving the discipline of the Lord we learn righteousness. No discipline for the moment seems joyful, but for those who truly desire holiness, it is the only course set before them. It will always be better for the saint to ask God to correct them and to make them holy, than for them to have God's correction forced upon them. There is mercy and great grace for those who seek God's discipline and correction in their lives.

What the world needs in this hour is to see the sons of God walking in righteousness and holiness. I am convinced that there is no more pleasing request that a son or daughter can make in this hour than to ask for God to teach them His fear, and to ask for God to establish their walk in holiness. What a delight it is to our Father's ears to receive such a request from His children.

The fear of God is necessary in our lives. It is not enough to love God, even if you love Him passionately. You must also learn to fear Him that you might turn away from sin. It is in the fear of God that we are perfected in holiness.

Selah

The Chastisement of Sons - Part Two

Joseph Herrin (03-27-2012)



Beans, Glorious Beans!

As anticipated, the response to the last post where I spoke of Yahweh breaking my leg was mixed. There exists a remnant who have embraced a message of divine correction and the fear of God. However, the majority in the church reject the notion that Yahweh would inflict injury or suffering upon His children. The very suggestion offends those who have been influenced by the prosperity preachers who teach that God is all love and mercy and kindness while ignoring His holiness and severity.

Tragically, the majority in the church have become conformed to the image of the lost and apostate masses of mankind whom the Psalmist describes, and the apostle Paul quotes, in the following words:

Romans 3:18

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

The reason there is so little holiness in the church today is that the church does not fear Yahweh. The apostles feared Him, and they urged the church to do the same.

II Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, *perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in *the fear of the Lord* and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

The church today wants “the comfort of the Holy Spirit,” but they reject “the fear of the Lord.” One lady wrote in response to the previous post declaring that we are not under the Law, but under grace. She has been inculcated with the doctrine of cheap grace which gives a person liberty to sin with impunity. In her mindset, which is quite common today, the fear of God is an Old Testament matter.

Her admonition to me was that Yahweh is not to be feared today, for He is a God of love.

Please, if this is your thinking, carefully consider the following passage which is *New Testament*. Not only does the apostle state that Yahweh is to be feared today, but that Christians should have even greater fear than those who had only the Old Testament. This is brought out in the phrase “Of how much worse punishment...” Look for these words in the passage below and see how they are used.

Hebrews 10:26-31

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

I confess that I was continuing in sinful behavior that the Father had previously given me instruction and correction in. It was not only just that He should inflict this discipline upon my physical body, but it was a merciful act, one in which He showed much restraint. He could have brought a more severe correction and would have been justified in doing so. My heart cries out, “Thank you Father for your patient correction of your son. I want to share your holiness. I do not want to be disqualified to inherit those good things You have planned for my life. Help me to stand, and to be an example to others of an overcoming son who is ruling over the passions and desires of the flesh.”

The Father is already giving such help. I will share an experience that occurred the same day I posted the blog regarding my re-breaking my leg. I was sitting with my leg propped on a pillow and my computer in front of me. The thought came to me that “*nothing changes unless something changes.*” I had heard this saying previously, and there is wisdom in it. I pondered that if I wanted to have victory over the appetites of my flesh, and get down to that weight the Father had prescribed for me and remain there, I would have to take definite steps to do so. The change would not come without some alteration to my previous habits.

As I thought on what I could change practically, the thought arose in my mind that I should look into recipes for rice and beans. I knew beans to be a very nutritious food source, and they come in great variety. They are low fat (actually no fat unless it is added in the cooking process), and are quite hearty and satisfying. Many consider beans a humble food. I remember an uncle telling me that, growing up very poor, his family ate so many beans that when he became an adult he never wanted to eat another one. Beans have been a staple for the poor. This is why they are associated with “soul food,” that humble fare that was eaten by the African slaves brought to America. Humility is the order of the day, so eating this humble food appeared to me to be in keeping with the Father’s will.

(I have already removed most meats from my diet at the Father’s instruction. This was a personal word to me, and I do not share it as an universal instruction for the body of Christ. Having become

diabetic for a short period in 1998, and having a heart attack about 5 years ago, the Father has dealt with me strictly regarding my diet.)

After thinking about rice and beans for a moment I went on to other matters, but the Father brought me back to the subject of beans when a sister in Christ sent me an e-mail about thirty minutes after the thought had first popped into my head. This sister shared the following:

I too struggle with the same area of my flesh Joseph. Awhile back I discovered beans as a wonderful food and I believe a godly one. I'm sending you a story about beans that I have shared with many from Daniel that I love to tell.

The first word in the follow-up e-mail, in capital letters was “BEANS.” There was then a little story of Daniel and his three friends in Babylon eating beans. The e-mail ended with a recipe for black beans.

This sister’s correspondence bore witness to what the Spirit had spoken to me just a short while earlier. I was confident that the Father was giving me direction for making alterations to my diet. Without a plan I would surely make spontaneous eating decisions that would be driven by my natural appetites. I needed to take action to make changes to my diet. The Father was directing me to make beans a key part of my diet.

Now, some might be thinking, “Beans sound so boring. Surely God would not make you eat beans as a major portion of your diet.” I believe He would. Yahweh has been speaking much about a wilderness experience for His saints. As a pattern, Yahweh gave the Israelites manna to eat in the wilderness. Diet was a very integral part of that which the Father used to humble His people. Manna was good, tasting like wafers with honey, but the flesh craves variety. The flesh is not content with eating to meet the body’s need for nutrients. It wants entertainment.

Bear with me a moment as I explain this matter. I am not saying that it is wrong to eat foods that taste good. Nor am I advocating that Christians adopt a bland diet to become more spiritual and less carnal. What I have shared consistently in my ministry is that as a disciple of Christ we need to be content with whatever the Father chooses for us. He does not always give us “the bread of affliction.” At times He provides milk and honey, grapes figs and much variety.

In the wilderness Yahweh had a specific work to accomplish among His people. During the centuries they dwelt as slaves in Egypt, the children of Israel had been slaves to their fleshly appetites. Yahweh wanted to set them free. He wanted them to find their satisfaction in doing His will rather than in sating the flesh. He therefore tested them by depriving them of the variety of foods they had known in Egypt to see if they would be content with what He provided for them. We know the outcome. The people complained bitterly as if they were suffering some great adversity.

Numbers 11:1

Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of Yahweh; and when Yahweh heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of Yahweh burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

What was the people's complaint?

Numbers 11:4-6

The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? "We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."

This was not adversity. The people were not suffering. God gave them all they needed for their bodies' nutritional needs to be met. Their complaint was purely carnal. The flesh clamored for satisfaction through excitement and stimulation. God wanted His people to find their satisfaction in doing His will. Yahweh will deal similarly with His people today. The Israelites are set forth as an example to the church.

I Corinthians 10:1-6

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. ***Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.***

What was the evil spoken of here? It was being dissatisfied with Yahweh's provision. It was murmuring and complaining against God because He was not pandering to the people's flesh. As Yahweh brings a remnant of His people through a wilderness experience in these days they too will be tested in similar ways. We are urged to not fail as the Israelites did.

I Corinthians 10:7-11

And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ***nor complain, as some of them also complained,*** and were destroyed by the destroyer. ***Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

Yahweh has not told me to eat only beans and rice. I am to make these items a staple of my diet, however. In truth, I like beans very much. Yahweh is gracious. Will I still like them as much a year from now? I trust that I will be content with whatever the Father chooses for me. The grace of God will certainly be sufficient for me to walk without murmuring or complaint.

I Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Yahshua.

After receiving this instruction from the Father I put some black beans on to cook in my crock pot and I went shopping for a rice cooker. Whole grain and brown rice is much healthier to eat than the

highly refined instant white rice that is so popular. They also take a lot longer to cook. I did not want to use my propane to cook rice for an hour and a half on the stove, so I purchased an electric rice cooker that also steams vegetables. George and I had a very good meal that evening, and quite satisfying.

My point in sharing this is that if you too are sensing the Father's hand of discipline in your life, if you are sensing the need to break free of old habits and to establish new ones, then you may need to take definite steps in order for these changes to be effected. "Nothing changes unless something changes." Ask the Father to show you how to bring forth the changes in your life that will be pleasing to Him.

The Chastisement of Sons - Part Three

Joseph Herrin (03-30-2012)



This present look at the chastisement of sons has provoked a lot of response, and it has been quite mixed. Numerous saints have written to share their own experiences of Yahweh disciplining them, while others have written to object to the idea that God would inflict injury or suffering upon His children. Following is one testimony from a brother who wrote to share of a time when he knew with a certainty that Yahweh had afflicted him.

Hi Joseph,

I want to through my two cents worth into the mix on broken legs, I too had an experience some twenty years ago when I was sure Yahovah broke my leg to get my attention back to Him and His will for me, I fell off the roof at home trying to fix a leak from the rain, I knew when I hit the ground it was My God who was responsible for my accident, He put me in hospital for it to be pinned and my wife bought in some books for me to read whilst I was in there, one of them was on discipline of His disciples, and the moment I began to read it I knew for sure it was HIM who put me on my back to shut up and listen too his message. To make a long story short the break healed perfectly, according to my doctor you wouldn't know it was ever broken.

Michael

Then there is the testimony of a Christian sister who recognized Yahweh's chastisement when it occurred, but was later talked out of it.

Greetings brother,

I thank the Lord for his faithfulness to perfect you! Your situation here reminds me of a sister's situation, except her outcome is different, [being an example of the type of arguments you are receiving from people who object to what you have shared]. This sister before being saved, did cocaine. Awhile after being saved she was angry at her husband for still using the drug. She thought, "Fine. I will show him. If he wants to do it, I will too!" So she went in the house and did a line. She testified to me, that she walked out the door right afterward and slipped and broke her leg. She said

she knew right away it was the Lord chastening her for doing that and she repented right away and was moved at his love for her!

However, she then began going to a church that teaches that God does not do that!... That was many years ago and her testimony is no longer told to my knowledge of the broken leg, and repentance. It has been replaced with how God would not do that now and He just desires us to be rich. Hopefully your testimony will make some consider their own testimony and what they have been taught since.

God bless brother

Glen Pickren, a brother in Christ who resides in California, wrote to me regarding the illustration of the shepherd breaking the sheep's leg to keep it from straying. I had mentioned in a previous post that I had heard this before, but had not confirmed the validity of the illustration. Glen sent me this succinct reply.

Psalms 51:8

*Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones **which You have broken** rejoice.*

David being a shepherd is speaking of the common practice to discipline a wayward sheep who kept going astray. Knowing that the sheep's life is at stake the shepherd would break the sheep's leg, then bind it up, and then carry the sheep on his shoulders until the leg healed. Once healed, the sheep would closely follow the shepherd wherever he went.

Bedouin shepherds in Israel do this to this day. Bill Cooper (an elderly minister this brother knows and respects) saw it on a trip there.

David was the writer of this Psalm. The occasion was his reflecting upon the discipline Yahweh had brought after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and deceitfully had her husband killed in an attempt to hide his sin.

Yahweh disciplined David severely for his transgressions. The child born of the act of adultery died. Yahweh declared to David that his own wives would be sexually violated publicly, even as he had sexually violated his neighbor's wife privately. In addition to this, Yahweh said the sword would never depart from David's house. The discipline of Yahweh was severe, but it was needful in order to teach David to hate this sin that had led him to act in such an ungodly manner.

Yahweh's corrective path for David was excruciating. David's eldest son Amnon began to lust after Tamar, a beautiful virgin daughter of David by another wife. His lust was so intense that he made himself sick pining away for his half-sister. Amnon ended up using deception to get his sister to come wait upon him in his bedchamber. He then raped her, and having done this vile deed, his hatred of his sister became more intense than the lust he had for her formerly. He sent her away in shame, and the news came to David.

What do you suppose David thought when he heard of this? David was surely grieved at heart that

this beautiful virgin daughter had been violated. Her virginity had been taken from her. Her opportunity to be given as a bride to some noble in a holy union was wrested from her. David, however, must have been truly conflicted. We are told that he heard about Amnon's transgression, but said nothing about it. Surely David's own sin was before his eyes and he saw his transgression as worse than his son's. How could he chasten his son when his own sins were far worse? A sense of shame hindered David from taking that action which was demanded.

When David failed to act, Tamar's brother Absalom rose up. He formed a plot to take vengeance on his half-brother. He waited patiently, and when the matter seemed forgotten, he arranged for all of David's sons to come to a feast at his house. When the signal was given, Absalom and his servants rose up and slew Amnon. Absalom then fled and went to live in a foreign country.

David loved Absalom. Like his sister Tamar, he was beautiful. There was not a defect on him from the top of his head to the sole of his foot. After some time had passed, Absalom petitioned his father to allow him to return to Jerusalem. David permitted him to do so, but did not give Absalom an invitation to see his face. The murder of David's firstborn son was a great transgression, though David had also murdered an innocent man. David was learning by these tragic and painful events to hate the sin that he had formerly embraced.

With the aid of David's general Joab, Absalom eventually won an audience with his father, but the relationship was strained. David loved Absalom dearly, but he held himself aloof from him due to the murder of Amnon. Absalom became bitter and plotted a revolt. He gathered the hearts of all of the people to himself, forcing David and those loyal to him to flee Jerusalem. A battle ensued and David's hardened forces routed the much larger army of Absalom. In the melee Absalom was slain.

David's sorrow was complete. Though he had won the battle and the kingdom was restored to him, David had no joy in it. He mourned grievously for his fallen son. David recognized that this entire series of tragic events began with his own unbridled lust. Now David had two dead sons, and a daughter who had been sexually violated. In addition, Absalom had fulfilled the word of the prophet and lain publicly with a number of David's wives that had been left in Jerusalem when he fled the city.

People of God, is there any man among you who would not choose for God to break their leg rather than to undergo the experience of chastisement that David received from the hand of Yahweh? David was truly scourged. Yahweh inflicted great suffering and injury to this man and his family. Yet, in the process, He taught David to hate the sin that had precipitated it all. I am confident that David learned the lesson well. He came to loathe sexual lust, so that the very thought of it turned his stomach. I do not mean sex itself became detestable, but rather the inordinate desire for it, the twisting and distorting of sexual desire that is manifested in fornication, adultery, and other ruinous behaviors.

It was many years back that Yahweh revealed to me this pattern of sin and divine correction in the life of King David. At the time I was struggling with many lustful thoughts and had an addiction to pornography. My children were mere babes at the time, and I considered what evil would result in my home if I did not rule over this area of fleshly passion and desire. An image flashed into my mind

of my lust giving birth to adulterous action and it being exposed openly where everyone knew about it. I saw in my mind's eye for a moment the hurt in my wife's heart, and my shame before the eyes of my children. I considered the reproach that would be brought against the God I served, and I was left trembling. It was an exceptionally vivid, and realistic image that God placed in my mind. I could perceive these things as if they were actually taking place. In great fear I cried out fervently to Yahweh to deliver me from this sin and to keep me from bringing open shame to Him, my family, and myself.

The Father heard my prayer that day. Shortly afterwards He set me free from pornography. He did so by teaching me the fear of Him. People of God, apart from a real fear of the holy discipline of Yahweh in our lives, we will not arrive at that condition of personal holiness in our thoughts and actions that Yahweh demands of His sons and daughters.

II Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, *perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Sin is intransigent. It is stubbornly bound to the flesh in which we dwell. It is never going to depart as long as we abide in sinful flesh. For this reason we must stir ourselves up in our spirit man to buffet our bodies and keep them under subjection. Yahweh knows that we need strong encouragement in this matter. While our love of God is yet imperfect, we must be induced to rule over the passions and desires of the flesh as we are trained by the rod of correction. Until the heart of Christ is fully formed in us, we need help in restraining our flesh. Yahweh is both just and loving to scourge His sons, thereby directing them to share in his righteousness.

Hebrews 12:11

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

A sixteen year old sister in Christ who lives in Alabama wrote me the following words which greatly encouraged my heart.

Hey Mr. Herrin,

*It's Zoe. We received your blog about your leg injury, due to your disobedience to the Lord ... So, I just wanted to encourage you and say that we'll all fall, but as the Proverb says, "A **righteous man may fall seven times but he rises again.**"*

Zoe

I wrote back to Glen Pickren, asking him if he could provide me with further details of the eyewitness account of the brother who saw the Bedouin shepherds practicing this form of behavior modification with their sheep. He sent me back the following:

Hi Joseph,

I talked to Bill and got more details. He had related the practice David alludes to then mentioned his encounter with the young Bedouin shepherd. Bill was riding in a tour bus going from Jerusalem to Jericho when a young man carrying a sheep came running toward the bus and flagged it down. The bus stopped for him and he boarded. Then, the bus turned around and went back to Jerusalem and let the boy off at a veterinarian's office. The tour guide was an Arab who spoke Arabic as did the shepherd. When the passengers inquired what was going on he explained that he had broken the sheep's leg intending to just fracture it, but he had instead caused a compound fracture, hence the need for the vet to set the leg...

I had forwarded to Glen a link to a site that suggested that the practice of shepherd's breaking the legs of lambs that strayed was a myth. The site also expressed the view that corporal punishment of children by parents is an ungodly practice. Glen added the following in his reply to me.

It is abundantly clear from scripture what God thinks of child discipline not only in specific verses such as:

Pro 13:1

A wise son accepts his father's discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Pro 22:15

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Pro 23:13-14

Do not hold back discipline from the child. Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol.

Pro 3:11-12

My son, do not reject the discipline of Yahweh or loathe His reproof, for whom Yahweh loves He reproves, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.

Which passage is applied to the Christian as follows:

Heb 12:5-11

And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained

by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

And the entire Bible is filled with examples of the Lord's discipline of His people. It is the notion of the Lord's practice of discipline these professing Christians seem to object to, not just the sheep story.

Brothers and sisters, we live in that hour described by the apostle Paul.

II Timothy 4:2-3

Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will heap up for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires...

The church has truly “heaped up” ministers who proclaim a sensual message that is enticing to the flesh of man. The image of a holy God who chastens His sons has been removed from the pulpit. It has been replaced with proclamations of a tolerant, appeasing deity who panders to the desires of the flesh and wants all His children to be sated with material possessions and entertained with endless pleasures. The church of today is more akin to a cruise ship than a crucible in which holy men and women are formed. The message of Yahweh’s discipline of His people is cast away as an undesirable relic of unenlightened forefathers whose thinking was primitive, cruel, and authoritarian.

I believe it is the last word of the preceding paragraph that is especially offensive to Christians today. The word “authoritarian” has developed very negative associations. The Adamic nature is rebellious. We live in the midst of a rebellious nation (I speak as one dwelling in America). The nation began with an act of rebellion and a declaration of man’s natural right to pursue “happiness.” Happiness has come to include whatever deviant behavior that brings pleasure to a man or woman. Fornication is promoted as healthy and desirable.

<http://www.wnd.com/2012/02/selling-pornography-to-kids-as-science/>

To remain a virgin until married will result in someone being stigmatized as being sexually repressed. Homosexuality is championed from the highest political office in the land. Abortion, which is always the fruit of sexual union, most often illicit sexual behavior in Yahweh’s eyes, is guarded zealously as a basic human right. No thought at all is given to the fact that babies are being murdered in the wombs of their mothers.

Those who would speak out against this profligate pursuit of the hedonistic desires of the flesh are castigated as “haters” and “despots” who want to impose their morality upon others. Such ones are not even permitted to speak in the churches of this hour. The message of holiness is offensive to the sensual masses with whom the churches have filled their pews.

The morality of Yahweh is in conflict with the immorality of man. As the church decries the government’s actions in removing the Ten Commandments from courthouses and public venues, they have themselves banned the voice of truth and conviction from being heard in their midst. Yahweh will chasten His sons and daughters that they might not walk in the same selfish, sinful path

as the world. Though they refuse to abide a message of divine correction, His hand will not be stayed. Judgment is at the door.

I Peter 4:17-18

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

Christ did not proclaim the message of easy belief that is heard throughout Christendom today. His message of an afflicted path that leads to life, and few there be that find it, has been replaced with the broad path of prosperity and blessing, crowded with multitudes of sensual believers. Is it any wonder that many are offended at the suggestion that Yahweh would break the leg of one of His sons as an act of discipline? Those with understanding are not offended. They perceive the glorious inheritance of the overcomers. They perceive the preeminence of the firstborn sons of God who will attain to the first resurrection. They realize that most Christians will fall short. They will be shut out from access to the inner chamber of God. They will forfeit things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the mind of man, those things which are prepared for the sons of glory.

Recognize the truth in the words that "Yahweh is not a respecter of persons." Yahweh will not be mocked. Each person will reap what they sow. If they sow to the flesh they will reap destruction. If they sow to the Spirit they will reap life to the ages. Christ is coming quickly. His reward is with Him to render unto every man according as his work shall be.

Romans 2:5-11

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": aeternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.

Let us take these words to heart and tremble. Yahweh is not some mush God who will wink at sin, nor One who rewards careless and sensual Christians with eternal blessing. Let us have the attitude of the apostle Paul who said:

II Corinthians 5:10-11

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.

I pray that you might be persuaded by these words.

The Chastisement of Sons - Part 4

Joseph Herrin (04-02-2012)

I thought it would be good to share some testimonies from others regarding the subject of Yahweh's chastisement of His sons and daughters. We are at a time when Yahweh must purge, purify and refine His people. The bride must be made ready for the return of the Bridegroom. If you are to be part of the bride, you will be disciplined that you might share in God's holiness.

The church does not focus on such things in this hour. There are multitudes of carnal saints who have heaped up to them ministers to tell them the things they want to hear. They sit and listen to smooth words of ease, comfort and prosperity. The flesh is not discomfited, and the ministers are careful to keep it that way so the numbers in attendance will swell and the offerings will continue to come in. Just listen to Joel Osteen preach. He has the largest church in the land. Pick ANY of his sermons. Your flesh will not be the least bit troubled. You will hear only smooth and pleasant things.

If you abide under such preachers you may have ease and comfort, but you will not be prepared on that day when you must stand before Christ.

Malachi 3:2-3

“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to Yahweh an offering in righteousness.”

The following testimony by Boris Sorokovsky speaks of a son receiving discipline from the Father. What follows is an excerpt taken from a much longer testimony that can be read online.

I can relate very well to this word, for I have often been disciplined. The marks of sonship are on my body. They are marks of love.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

A Testimony by Boris Sorokovsky

So, just to make a long story short, our people have repeated most of the experiences of the Israelites when they were brought to the promised land. And I was one of them. We were young people yet. I was 18 when we came to Australia. We were young and full of life and energy. We were working in the church very hard, we were busy up to here, but then slowly we saw what happened. Brethren took care with building one house, then two houses, then two jobs. Then they sent their wives to work to get more dollars and better carpets and this and that. And before you know it, they had all caught up in the materialistic efforts.

So, the prayer life went and it was replaced by meetings and conferences and this and that, and church activities. And I was busy in it at length. Yet the Lord in his mercy, He was calling. He sent his prophets to my family and the Lord rebuked me and told me to repent. And to start searching the

Scriptures and turn to the narrow way.

The Lord was warning me personally several times in Australia. But I had no time to search the Scriptures, I was busy doing church work. I was busy supposedly doing God's work. I was an ordained minister, I was the church secretary, I was the youth director, I was doing this and that, I was leading the choir, I was doing the printing, things like that. I was busy, I had no time for prayer. I had no time for repentance, I had no time for the Word of God.

So finally, the Lord caught up with me in Canada. Of course Canada is even more plentiful than Australia. So we had a big farm and we got in big debt. I was working eight hours on the farm, and then eight hours in construction. I'm a carpenter by trade. We were trying to really make a big dollar very fast, sixteen hours a day, trying to really get going in this country of Canada.

Then the Lord sent me the last warning. He sent a prophet from another city. A person who was still walking close to the Lord. He brought the person from far off. Then as we prayed at night, the Lord told me specific things I was guilty of, like being very worldly. And the Lord, after telling the secrets of my heart, gave me the last warning, a stern warning to repent. If not, God was going to judge me. And then that person went away. I find that in the Bible. The Lord sent prophets of old to nations, to individuals, to warn them and call them to repent. I find that Biblical. And even today, God is a living God, He is still on the throne. He can still rebuke his people and call them to repent. The same living God who was working in Russia and China is still living in America and Canada and all over the world, if we are only willing to believe the Bible.

After that I still was very busy. That didn't help. Then one night the Lord showed me a vision. I was walking on a broad road, a very wide road. It was going downhill and getting darker and darker. Then I could see it turn to the left a bit. And I saw myself walking down that road. And I understood that was the broad road to hell. Even with me doing all the church work that I did, it didn't matter to the Lord. I was walking on the broad road because I loved the world and was living, more or less, my own way, doing my own will. I had no time for prayer and searching the Scriptures like they did in Apostolic days. They were in prayer daily. They sought the face of the Lord. They were sent by the Holy Ghost. They did the will of the Holy Ghost. We read that Peter was sent certain places by the Holy Ghost.

Phillip was sent by the Holy Ghost different places. Phillip left a revival in Samaria and went to an empty road. Who did it? The Holy Ghost told him to go. God told him to go to that empty road. The work of the Lord was done.

Look at the Apostle Paul and Barnabas. While they were fasting and praying the Lord sent them out to the mission field. It was not the Acts of the Apostles, but the Acts of the Holy Ghost, as I read in my Bible. But this is the problem. When people start to depart from the Lord, they begin to replace those works of the Holy Ghost with their own works. With their own supposed program and so on. So the Lord did not care how busy I was in the church work, like in many churches today.

Man-made programs. They're so busy with missions, with printing, with radio, with this and that. But they lost their prayer life. There's no prayers in the churches, no prayers in the houses. There's

no real Bible- like presence of the Lord. There's no real Bible-like working of the Holy Spirit in churches today. Why? Because the churches are asleep today in America and Canada. And I was one of them.

The Lord had mercy on me. He showed me that vision, and then there was a voice. As I saw myself walking down that road there was a voice coming down that said if I would just keep on walking down that road and proceed around the corner, that would be a point of no return for me. And then I saw myself throw my hands in the air and cry out, "Have mercy on me Lord!" And then I turned around, and it was finished.

That was the final warning for my life. Because I had several warnings in Australia, and one very stern warning and call to repentance and to go back to the narrow way. And the narrow way, brethren, is a narrow way. I'm going to share it with you briefly. It's a really narrow way, if you want to taste it.

It was a very narrow way for Christ and the Apostles. If you want to mean business with God, it will become a really narrow way, here in America and Canada. But many people will not want to pay the price of the narrow way, in the churches.

So, the next day I should have been killed. God planned to judge me, but it was the mercy of God that saved me. I was working on a steep roof. We were building cottage homes and A-frames, me and my brother. It was already getting close to winter time. Sometimes there was snow on the roof. We were roofing with shingles on a very steep A-frame roof. We were young and strong and very able and smart, and we were working like a couple of monkeys on the roof. So we did not build scaffolds like carpenters normally do around the house. We just nailed 2x4's on the edge of the roof like that, which is only an inch and a half wide. And we would walk on those, running back and forth doing the roof work, shingling.

And of course we would have a pile of shingles here on a rope and we would pull them up as we would go up the roof. And then we'd nail another 2x4 on and walk on it. One morning we started and it was quite slippery. There was snow on it. I was working along, and it was quite high on that roof, it was a two-story. When I turned to take some shingles, my foot slipped, and I was falling back with my face front- ways. The owner of that lot which we were building for, for some reason, I don't know why he did it, but he cut all the trees around that lot, and he left stumps about four or five feet high. When we cut down trees in British Columbia, we cut the stumps very low. I don't know why he left them high.

Maybe it was specifically for me. When I slipped and I saw I was falling right onto one of those stumps with my face and my chest, all I can remember is I cried, "Lord, have mercy on me!" And I had my hands up like I saw myself in the vision. And then I remember no more. I struck that stump with the full force of my chest, here. And by the law of physics, with that height and my weight, I should have been killed. I should have been pierced. It was only the mercy of God and a miracle of God that I was still alive. I passed out and my brother told me he dropped down and looked at me, and he said I didn't have signs of life. He called the ambulance and took me to the hospital. When they x- rayed me there was just a big black spot here, but no ribs were broken, nothing was damaged

inside.

And so I knew it was only the mercy of the Lord, a miracle, that saved me from death. It was his last warning, his last call to me to repent and to come on the narrow way. That was a turning point for my family. God told us to go into the Word and prayer daily. So we started morning prayers and started searching the word of God in the morning for hours or more and in the night for quite a long time.

And the Lord told us to repent of many things. As we searched the Word we found out what we were guilty of. Then, after we repented, and only then, the Lord started to talk to us personally. The Lord started to talk to us in visions, in dreams, with voice, and with other means as He talked in the Bible, instructing us and teaching us and correcting us, bringing us to that narrow way, that narrow walk. Then we found out that the Christian life is not just a life of going to church, just dropping a dollar on the plate. It will involve all of your life, inside and out. It will involve your wallet, it will involve everything. It will involve your insides, your pride, your haughtiness. It will touch your tongue, it will touch your tastes in life, it will touch your likings, it will touch your habits, the whole inner life it will touch.

The Lord told us also that it has to touch the outside. Many preachers say, "Oh, I'm saved, praise God, I'm filled with the Holy Ghost, and it doesn't matter how we look outside." No. It's the preaching of the devil. Just read the New Testament and find out. There's a strict commandment from the Lord, that we are living epistles being read of all men. Men do not read our hearts. They say, "We are under grace, we are not under law. Therefore it doesn't matter how we appear outside, as long as you are pure in heart, it doesn't matter."

But yes it matters. It's a commandment of the Lord in the New Testament. The Lord has told us by revelations also that it is his will, that we better change the outside. So we had to clean our house of many things, of worldly things. We had to change our garments, my wife had to change her garments.

Myself also, and our children. It had been no problem for our daughter to walk around in miniskirts. Why? Our daughter was 11 and 12 when we came to Canada. It was no big thing, everybody does it. In America everybody claims the Holy Ghost is in their churches, supposedly, that they have Apostolic churches, they believe in the Lord, they believe in the Holy Ghost, God is with them, and they say they are on their way to heaven, that they could be raptured any time. That's the claim of the churches.

But I find in the word of God that yes, we are saved by grace, that is true. But we are saved by grace for the holy works, for the holy deeds, for the holy life, for a life of righteousness, a life of separation from this world and the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes. So, my wife also had to find a covering for her, which flew away in this free world. I had to change my garments, she had to also. And the Lord showed us what it is: we had to be separate from the world inside and out.

[End Excerpt]

The Chastisement of Sons - Part 5

Joseph Herrin (04-04-2012)

I came across the following testimony on the Internet. I do not know this brother, and have never corresponded with him. Yet, the testimony has the ring of authenticity and truth to it. The testimony is fitting, considering the current series of writings the Father has led me to share with the body of Christ. This testimony is not long. It is to the point. It speaks of a man who was surely scourged of the Father, but the result was a turning to righteousness.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding as you read.

The Testimony of Bro. Mike Elliot

I was born August 26, 1959. I was saved at 19 years old, at home in my bed when I called on Jesus Christ and asked Him to forgive me of my sins. He saved me the moment I called on Him. I can take you to the place. After my salvation, I made the mistake of not "desiring the sincere milk of the Word". If babes don't have milk, they don't grow. And such was the case with me...I didn't grow. I gradually became entangled again in the same things that I had previously been doing, drinking, drugs and all the other things associated with this lifestyle. Although I had been down this sinful road before, something was very different now. Before, when I would partake in all these things, they didn't seem wrong and didn't bother me in the least. But now, every time I engaged in these activities, I felt like a sheep-killin' dog. The Holy Spirit would eat me alive with guilt, shame and conviction. Knowing I was wrong in the things that I was doing, I continued to dig myself into a pit, deeper and deeper, trying to escape the guilt. I became my own worst enemy. I let Satan lead me into this carnal trap because I didn't get established, rooted and grounded in God's Word.

After a few years of living in misery, I decided that I needed to be in church. I thought attending church would make the guilt go away. I still didn't have a clue as to what living a Christian life really meant. Attending church satisfied my conscience for a while, until I foolishly decided I could enjoy the best of both worlds. Boy was I ever wrong... I thought that God wouldn't mind if I had an occasional beer with my friends or attended parties with some of the old gang. I'd go out and have a few on Friday and Saturday night and then attend church on Sunday to put my conscience at ease. God never removed that old guilt feeling. I still knew and was convicted that what I was doing was wrong in God's eyes.

Finally on April 21st, 1984 God brought it all to a screeching halt! I decided to go camping with some of the old bunch. I enjoyed hunting a lot and it was spring gobbler season in Virginia. We decided we'd camp out, party Friday night (Good Friday, 1984 by the way) and get up early the next morning and go turkey hunting. God had other plans. On the way to the camping spot that Friday evening, I stopped at a convenience store to pick up what we'd need for the weekend. Something strange was going on in my mind. I had been convicted more than usual lately about how I was living (partying and attending church). The conviction seemed to be magnified this particular weekend. Anyway, I walked into the store with these things bearing heavy on my mind for some odd reason. I walked up to the cooler and reached to open the door where the 12 packs were. Something told me "Don't open that door." It wasn't an audible voice, neither was it something I just

imagined and could dismiss. I knew it was the Lord speaking to me in that still, small voice. I put my hand down, contemplating what to do. I knew that I had better not do the usual thing and buy a 12 pack. So, I stood there for a moment and collected my thoughts. I looked over in the cooler directly beside where I had reached just moments before. That's when I saw the 6 packs. I reasoned that, surely buying just six wouldn't be as bad as buying 12. Bad move! Yep, I compromised... Knowing better, I convinced myself to open the cooler door and get the beer. Maybe this was all just my imagination and it would go away. But, when I opened the door, the most horrid feeling came over me. I felt like I had just set in motion something that I couldn't stop nor did I have control over. I was genuinely scared, terrified. I felt like I was heading for disaster...and I was. What was God going to do? I didn't know what He was going to do, but I knew in my heart that I had crossed that final boundary that He had drawn. This was the last straw and it was too late.

I went on and set up camp that evening, trying to have a good time and erase these things from my mind, but I couldn't. I didn't want to be where I was and I couldn't shake the awful sense of urgency and dread that I had felt earlier. I drank one beer that night and part of another and enjoyed neither of them. This was unusual.

The next morning, my buddy and I were up early to get started turkey hunting. I had pretty much dismissed the events of the last evening, although I had not completely forgotten them. The fear that God was going to do something and the sense of dread had subsided somewhat. We discussed where we wanted to go and hunt that day. My buddy mentioned going to the High Knob section of nearby Jefferson National Forest. Knowing that this public ground is heavily hunted and that turkey hunting is a dangerous sport, I suggested we hunt the land next to where we had camped. My reason for this being that we would probably be a lot safer and we could walk to where we would hunt. He agreed and we set out on a day I'll never forget.

We arrived at the place we intended to hunt, about 1 1/2 to 2 miles from where we camped the night before, on top of a big ridge. We separated and I set out on my own. I walked about 1/4 mile down a steep ridge and set up and began calling. Everything I had been thinking seemed to be gone from my immediate conscience as I concentrated on listening for a turkey to answer my calls.

I heard one gobbler in the distance. Excitedly, I called harder. Then a hen started yelping about 100 yards below me. I thought to myself, "If I keep that old hen around with my calling, that gobbler will be down here real soon". The hen came closer and closer. Although I hadn't seen her yet, I could hear her walking in the leaves, about 50 yards away. I kept calling. All at once, a shot rang out! I thought my buddy had shot at this hen that had come to my calling. I assumed that he was aware that hens were illegal to take in the spring, so I stood up to go see what was going on. As soon as I stood up another shot rang out. Now I was really confused! I still hadn't seen anyone or the turkey I thought to be so close. I didn't remember hearing the turkey run or fly. Something was wrong! I felt something strange, like a twig had gotten down my shirt and was irritating my back. I had been sitting in front of a ledge to conceal myself and had broken some twigs back away from my face before I started calling. I pulled out my shirttail and reached underneath it, expecting to feel the twig fall out. Instead, it felt warm and sticky. I pulled my hand from under my shirt, still feeling no pain, and looked in horror. Blood was dripping from my fingers! At that moment I realized I had been shot! Then the events of the previous evening returned to my mind. I remembered the thoughts

I had while standing in front of the beer cooler. I remembered the feeling of dread, despair and urgency. What had I done? Now, here I was, standing in the middle of nowhere, 2 miles from the nearest dirt road, with my life's blood pouring out. This was the way it was and I couldn't change it!

The first words out of my mouth were, (you guessed it) OH GOD! As reality sank in, I stood there convinced that this was to be the place that I would die. I thought about my life and what it had meant up to now...it wasn't much. I remember thinking, "If I could just go back to minutes ago I'd yell out and warn the guy that shot me". If I had only known! I don't know how long it took all these events to transpire. Everything was happening at once. That's when I thought to pray! Yes, pray! I didn't know how much good it would do, but I knew that nobody could help me but God Almighty. I very sincerely asked God to help me in this situation. At the very moment I called on Him He answered! I felt a wonderful sense of well-being and peace enshroud me as I prayed. I knew He was there to help me. I heard that still, small voice again, the one that's so hard to describe! This time I welcomed it with gladness. The Lord told me, and I quote, "You're going to be alright. It will take you a while to get over this, but you're going to be alright". I was filled, at that moment, with assurance that God was going to let me live! Nobody could ever convince me differently, regardless of the circumstances. I knew that I knew-because the Lord had told me! Then, everything started to make sense concerning the events of the evening before. God had put me in this place, where the only choice or recourse I had, was to call on Him! And boy was I glad to be able to! He was there! And boy did I ever need Him!

When I had yelled out "OH GOD", the guy that had shot me realized what he had done and saw that I wasn't a turkey. He came running to me in a panic. About the same time my buddy came running around the ridge to see what was going on. By this time, the numbness from the shot was subsiding and I began to hurt real bad. The bullet fired from a Winchester Model 94, 30/30 (a deer rifle) had hit one of my ribs just below my right lung and fragmented. Miraculously, the bullet had turned down instead of up, missing my right lung about 1/2". About a fourth of it had exited my back about 10" above my right pants pocket. This is what I felt and thought to be the twig underneath my shirt.

I stood there as the stranger approached me and my buddy came running from the opposite direction. They got to me, lifted my shirt and examined where I had been hit. The guy that fired the shot wanted me to walk out of the ridge to safety, seeing that I was still standing and able to walk. He was still in a panic. I had to do some talking to him to keep him settled down! Calmly, I explained that I was bleeding too badly to walk up the steep ridge. I insisted that I lie down on my rolled up shirt right where I was, while my buddy ran for help. I told them both then that the Lord had already told me that I was going to be alright. My buddy, not wasting any time, took off on the 2 mile trek. It was 8:25 a.m.

As I lay there, with the guy that shot me kneeling by my side in tears, I began to hurt intensely. It felt like someone had buried an axe in my ribs. He kept begging me not to die. I kept explaining that I wasn't going to because the Lord told me that I was going to be alright. The guy told me that day that if I got out of there alive and okay, he'd be in church every Sunday the rest of his life. I lay there for what seemed to be hours. I saw, in a quiet moment between conversation, that the guy was staring at the front of my cap. For no apparent reason, he reached down and pulled my cap from my

head, took about two steps down the hill from me and threw it, like a frisbee over the hill. I asked him why he had taken my cap off. He explained that it was to make me more comfortable. It didn't make sense at the time. Later, after I thought about it, I was convinced that there was a bullet hole in the hat from the first shot. I went back about a year later to find the cap, but never did....

Anyway, the guys with the lifesaving crew arrived at about 10:30 with a stretcher and about a half-dozen men. I had to be carried up a steep incline for about 1/4 of a mile. The lifesaving crew had to borrow a 4-wheel drive Suburban (from the local funeral home to beat it all) to get as close as they could to where I was. After being carried up the hill, I rode the back of the Suburban to the awaiting ambulance which was two miles away. Arriving at the ambulance, I was still about 20 miles from the nearest hospital. Needless to say, I was in for a ride! I still knew that God wouldn't let me die!

We arrived at the hospital at 11:30 that morning. I was clinging to life and standing on what God had told me. The doctor frantically examined my condition. A nurse was constantly repeating my blood pressure to him. I heard her say, "seventy over zero". At that point the doctor stopped everything he was doing and yelled, "we gotta go now". I was rushed to the operating room. I remember seeing the lights on the ceiling go by so fast while the ER crew sped me down the hall on the gurney. I remember thinking that I hoped we didn't have any fast corners to turn or we would have a mess!

We reached the operating room and the orderlies lifted me over onto the cold operating table. A nurse finally got an IV in my arm that she had unsuccessfully attempted to do all the way from the ER on the run. I saw a tray of instruments come rolling in the door as the doctor stood over me. I had been relieved of my clothes during the examination in the ER. The surgeon picked up a scalpel and I watched him make an incision from my sternum to my navel before he ever tied up his mask. He stopped at my navel and started with another incision down to about my belt buckle. By this time the anesthesia was ready and I was put under.

I came out of surgery about 5 hours later. Prognosis... My liver had been shot to pieces. I had lost a kidney and about a foot of my large intestine. I had received 16 units of blood. I awoke in recovery. The day's events started coming back to me. I was so glad to be alive! God had kept His word! It didn't matter that I had tubes and staples and stitches and bandages all over and in me. I didn't even mind the pain! I was alive! And for the first time in my life I felt more alive than ever before! I was so happy about what the Lord had done for me! It was then I realized that only Jesus can give meaning and purpose to life. I was somebody through Jesus Christ!

I was in the hospital for a long stay. I had numerous minor surgeries and developed a bad infection that brought me close to death. I went from around 170 pounds to 123. I couldn't eat and ran a high fever for weeks. But I never forgot the whole time what the Lord told me! The doctors began to be very concerned. I told them the same thing I told those guys the day I got shot. God said "You're going to be alright"!

Before I got really sick with the infection, probably 5 or 6 days after the accident, I asked my mother to bring my Bible to the hospital. I intended to start reading it diligently. She brought it to me. I

didn't know where to start so I just opened it and started reading. Here's what I opened to and read:

Job 5:17: Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: 18: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

I couldn't hardly believe my eyes as I read this. The Lord was actually speaking to me through His Word! Praise God for His mercy. By all rights He could have taken me out. But instead, He had mercy and grace.

The Chastisement of Sons - Part 6 Joseph Herrin (04-05-2012)

Many of the readers of the Parables Blog are unacquainted with my earlier writings posted on the Heart4God website. I was led to begin the Parables Blog in April of 2008. Three months prior to this I had received discipline from the Father pertaining to the food I put in my body. I wrote a post regarding this correction from Yahweh. It is titled *Yahweh Speaks Through a Heart Attack*. I think reading that post will give the reader here a better understanding of the Father's dealing in my life in this area.

Yahweh is seeking to bring forth perfected sons and daughters in this hour. Like the Israelites of the Old Testament, we have set before us the challenge to take possession of the land. The Israelites were led by Joshua to take possession of Canaan. It was a land filled with many enemies. There were strongholds, fortified cities, and giants in the land. All of these had to be conquered, killed, or driven out, for if they remained they would become a snare to the people of God. The sins of the land of Canaan would entice God's people to wickedness. The idols of the land would lead them to commit spiritual adultery. Therefore, Yahweh commanded them to be zealous and to do a thorough job of subduing the land of their inheritance.

We too have a land to conquer. Christ said "the kingdom of God is within you." We each dwell in a little piece of real estate formed from the dust of the earth. As Paul testified, "In my flesh dwells no good thing." "Sin dwells in my flesh." The land of our flesh must be subdued. We too have a Joshua (Yahshua) to lead us into battle. He will give us the battle plan to pull down every stronghold, break through and subdue every fortified city, and slay every giant in our lives.

We know the Israelites fell short of the will of God. They gained some victory, but they left various enemies in the land. These enemies became a snare unto them, leading them to great sin and idolatry. This resulted in Yahweh judging His people. We too will be judged by God if we do not rule over the enemies in our flesh. Yahweh desires that our bodies become a kingdom of peace and righteousness. This can only be the condition of our vessels when we have risen up and done much warfare against the passions and desires of the flesh. If we make peace with any sinful desire we will be snared by it.

This is why Yahweh is dealing strictly with a remnant of His sons and daughters in this hour. He must have a bride that is prepared for the appearing of His Son. His Son requires a bride without spot, blemish, or any wicked thing. Yahweh will therefore discipline His people. He will scourge every son that we might share in His holiness. When He has tried us we will come forth as gold, though we must pass through the fire.

The following account is from January of 2008. It reveals the scourging of the Father in my life. He is patient and merciful, but He will not strive with men forever. Let us exhort one another to stir ourselves up in Spirit that we might fully possess our vessels in holiness and righteousness.

I discovered after having posted this writing in 2008 that my website program assigned to

it the number 622.

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id622.htm> (Note: This address was replaced in June 2012 when I revised the website.)

Those who are frequent readers of this blog will recognize the meaning of these numbers. Six is the number of the flesh man, and twenty-two signifies flesh cutting. Yahweh does all things perfectly.

If you have a testimony of your own to share regarding the chastening of the Father in your life, I invite you to consider sharing it for the edification of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Write up your testimony and send it in, and I will share as many as the Spirit permits.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Yahweh Speaks Through a Heart Attack
Joseph Herrin (01-18-08)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past week I experienced a heart attack. It was an experience of chastisement by my Heavenly Father, and He was very present with me, speaking to me His thoughts the entire time. I wish to share with you the things He spoke to me, for in this experience there is a message for all of God's children in this late hour.

This past Sunday, as I have done for several months, I led a Bible Study at the home of an older brother in Christ. The teaching given was titled "Possessing the Land." This presentation has been posted to the Heart4God website, and I strongly urge all who have not viewed it to do so. The teaching reveals the parallels between Joshua leading the children of Israel in to take possession of the land of Canaan and the Christian taking possession of the land of his flesh under the leadership of Yahshua.

After the meeting I stopped by a Chinese restaurant on the way home and picked up some food for supper. Some months back the Father had told me that He wanted me to focus on losing weight, and He gave me a specific goal to attain to before my next birthday in May. I have struggled with weight issues most of my life, and for most of my adult life I have been brought to think about the matter of weight loss and eating a healthy diet, as the Spirit has brought conviction time after time.

This area of my life has been a real stronghold, as I find in myself a desire to eat many things that are not healthy, or profitable for my body. Like many Christians, I managed to ignore the still, small voice of the Spirit, and I put off until a later date becoming serious about the things the Spirit was speaking to me. I figured that I had time to attend to this area of my life before it led to any serious consequences.

As some of you know from reading the book "Evidence of Things Unseen," back in 1998 I

began to experience symptoms of diabetes. I had a very sedentary job as a computer professional, and with plenty of money I was very willful in the things I chose to eat. Over time my weight ballooned to 285 pounds, and eventually it led to my becoming diabetic. This got my attention, and at the Spirit's leading I cut out fats and sugars from my diet and I quickly lost down to 235 pounds. All the symptoms of diabetes went away, and I became comfortable at that weight, and began to eat limited amounts of unhealthy foods while maintaining this weight.

For many years I saw no more consequences from my unhealthy eating habits. I was eating better than I had most of my life, but I still had not fully destroyed the stronghold of the flesh in this area of my life. In the past year I began to feel tired at work, and when I drank coffee I felt my heart pounding in my chest, so I gave up coffee, and once more the Spirit spoke to me. About five months ago He gave me specific instructions to lose down to 165 pounds, and to surrender my eating habits to Him.

I became excited about the prospect of getting down to this weight and becoming physically fit, and Yahweh said He would give me great grace to attain to this goal. He also indicated that arriving at this weight would be preliminary to certain things happening in my life, including a release into a greater and more effectual ministry. I listened to the Spirit and began applying myself to attaining the goal He had set before me. I was reading books on healthy eating and lifestyle, and I threw out the things I could no longer eat. I began exercising, and I got a set of scales and began weighing myself once a week on Fridays.

The first 20 pounds came off quickly, and I began feeling more energetic at work, and healthier in general. Many other things were happening at this time as the Lord provided a projection system and opened the door for me to teach a local Bible study. He told me to begin putting presentations together, and I began doing so. Yet after losing the first 20 pounds I once more began to make compromises in my eating.

I was down to 215 pounds, and I felt better, and I reasoned that attention to this matter of losing weight was not as important as preparing the teachings the Lord had given to me. For a couple months my weight stayed the same, and even began to inch back up. My focus on the goal was on and off. I made some right decisions in eating, but I was making a lot of exceptions. This past Sunday I stopped at the Chinese restaurant and ordered chicken and vegetables on fried rice with egg rolls. Part of my choices were healthy, and I reasoned that it was good enough to get by.

That night, January 13th, I began to feel tightness in my chest, and my left arm began to ache. I was not able to lie down due to my heart pounding so hard, so I sat up in a chair all night. The Spirit began to speak to me about how I had lost focus in doing the things He had commanded me, and how I had been walking in disobedience. I was very chastened, and I confessed my disobedience, and asked for His mercy.

On Monday I was feeling poorly and stayed home from work. The Spirit continued to deal with me, relating what was happening to the message I had given the day before on establishing the kingdom of God within our beings by ruling over every enemy, casting down every stronghold, and fighting the good fight of faith. I realized that for all of my 46

years I had allowed a stronghold to remain in the land of my flesh, and I had made peace with it. God, however, had not. He would not rest until everything within me was brought under His dominion. My fleshly appetite for unhealthy food had not yet come under His lordship.

I had never felt so bad physically as I did Sunday night and Monday. God had gotten my attention. This matter was all I could think about. I went and threw out some unhealthy food items that I had brought back into the house, and I went shopping and bought only those things I knew the Spirit had set His approval upon. I was much stricter in my selections than I had ever been before, seeking to be completely obedient to God.

Yahweh knew that I needed further chastening, however, as this was a mighty stronghold in my life, and I had let it remain in defiance to Him for many years. Monday night, January 14th, I began feeling even worse than the night before. The pain in my left arm increased. I could feel my heart laboring tremendously, and I had a slight feeling of nausea. I could not lie down, and once more sat in the chair in my room.

I considered calling a friend to let him know of my distress, and I considered whether the Lord would have me go to the hospital. I did neither, however, as I believed that this was a dealing of the Lord that I needed to place completely in His hands. As the night went on I was unable to sleep due to the discomfort. My heart's laboring became more pronounced, and I could tell that my body was growing tired from the struggle. Between 2 and 3 A.M. I felt that I was reaching a critical point where God would either have to intervene and heal me, or my heart would give out.

During this time I felt an extraordinary peace. I knew I was under the chastening hand of God, and I had a sense of His great watchfulness over me. Although I felt alone in regard to human companionship, I knew I was in the presence of Yahweh. I reached a place of contentment where I was at peace whether my Father in heaven chose to take my life, or to spare me for further service and a more complete conformity to the image of Christ.

I keep my music on my laptop computer, which is connected to a stereo system in my room, and I felt led to turn it on to a playlist of songs which were all taken from the Psalms of David. As they played I found my soul agreeing with the words, and my prayer going up to the Father. One song was from Psalm 25, which contains the following words:

Psalms 25:1-11

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in You I trust,

Do not let me be ashamed...

Make me know Your ways, O LORD;

Teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,

For You are the God of my salvation;

For You I wait all the day.

Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses,

For they have been from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
According to Your lovingkindness remember me,
For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.
Good and upright is the LORD;
Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in justice,
And He teaches the humble His way.
All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth
To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.
For Your name's sake, O LORD,
Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

I knew I had failed to obey the leading of the Spirit of Christ all these years, beginning in my youth, but I also understood that Yahweh is a God of mercy and lovingkindness. I could trust Him even in discipline.

I was reminded of David when his sin led to a severe chastisement where he was driven from Jerusalem before his son Absalom. David responded with a humble heart, confessing his iniquity, and being content with whatever Yahweh chose for him. David said:

II Samuel 15:25-26

“If I find favor in the sight of Yahweh, then He will bring me back again and show me... His habitation. But if He should say thus, ‘I have no delight in you,’ behold, here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.”

We can have no better attitude when confronted with the discipline of God. God takes no pleasure in judgment. He prefers that a man should repent, as His goal is always that righteousness and holiness be formed within His children. Yet, at times, our stubbornness requires that Yahweh deal with us severely.

As I endured the struggle within my body, my soul found comfort in the Psalms of David. Another song came on that the Spirit used to speak clearly to me.

Psalms 30:5

For His anger is but for a moment,
His favor is for a lifetime;
Weeping may last for the night,
But a shout of joy comes in the morning.

As I listened to the words of this Psalm I felt encouraged that Yahweh would bring me through this trial victoriously. Some time around 3 A.M. I fell asleep. When I awoke in the morning the pressure in my chest, and the great laboring my heart had known, were dissipated. I felt greatly improved.

I was mindful that Monday was the 14th, a number denoting transition from one state to another (See Matthew chapter 1). I felt that the Spirit was signifying that this stronghold that had ruled me all my life would rule over me no more, for I had learned the fear of the

Lord, and I understood His commitment to bring me to victory over every enemy in the land. Tuesday as I awoke feeling better was the 15th of the month. This is 5+5+5, signifying a fulness of grace.

I worked half a day Tuesday, and a full day Wednesday and Thursday. I still experienced a dull ache in my left arm, and a slight discomfort in my heart, for Yahweh has allowed these to remain as a reminder that I am to walk very carefully in this area of my life. I am filled with peace, however, knowing that God is watching over me to bring me forth to victory in every area of my life, and to bring everything within me under the dominion of His authority.

This chastisement of the Father has actually given me a hope that I previously lacked. Formerly I had doubted that Yahweh would give me victory over every area of my life that has been a source of trouble, leading to sin. Now I am confident that He will not rest until He brings me forth into complete victory, and that no enemy in the land of this flesh can stand before me as I follow Yahshua into battle.

He has also let me know that this is the message that He wants proclaimed in these days. He wants His children to walk holy and perfect before Him. He is not content for any area of our lives to remain in willful disobedience to His leading. He will judge His people, and He will chastise all who are allowing strongholds of sin to remain in them.

I share a house with a man who is not a Christian. Monday, as soon as I had returned from buying healthy food, my roommate came into the house and he had also been to the store. He said that he had bought cookies and ice cream for me. I told him I could not eat them, but he insisted they were for me. I replied that I had to eat things that were healthy, as my body could not take anymore unhealthy foods. Right after this he came to me and said he had bought two new movies, and he gave me one to watch, and later he brought me the other.

As soon as he presented the movie to me the Spirit spoke and showed me that the world is not only offering God's children things that are unhealthy for their bodies, but things that are unhealthy for their souls, as well. I returned the movies to my roommate without watching them. The Spirit impressed upon me that even as He is serious about the things we feed our bodies, He is even more concerned for what we feed our souls. Disobedience in the latter will bring forth His judgment and chastisement as surely as my disobedience in the former brought on a heart attack.

I had often been in the habit of watching T.V. after work. This too had been an area of my life that I had struggled with for as long as I have struggled with my eating. There had been times when I fell under conviction, and for some years I did not even allow a television in my house. However, I had compromised in this area, and I had watched many things that were impure, and an offense to a holy God. Although in recent years I had been selective about the things I would and would not watch, there was as much mixture between obedience and compromise with the flesh in this area as there had been in the area of eating.

Yahweh has been signifying that great judgment is coming to those who continue to feed on things that are unclean. A sister in Christ recently sent me a link to an article about a group of bald eagles that began to feed upon refuse left in an open trailer at a fish processing plant in Alaska. The eagles began to eat this fish refuse and they became covered in slime and were unable to fly. Some of the eagles began to freeze, and some were crushed among the refuse. The last update I read on this story said that 22 eagles had died. This is once more a number denoting judgment upon the flesh.

This sister wrote the following insight concerning this story:

It is such a picture of our nation - feasting on garbage, being covered with slime, and finally succumbing to it.

It is also a picture of the church. Yahweh is warning His children that we must cease feasting on the refuse of the world, or we will be covered in sin and no longer be able to rise above the depravity that is in the world. Already many saints have succumbed to the sin they have fed upon, and many lives have ended in spiritual death and ruin. The hour is late. Yahweh is sternly warning all His children to separate themselves from the world and its corruption.

We must be radical in our determination to live sanctified (set apart) lives that are pleasing to the Father. It is not necessary for God to bring His children to the point of death before they will repent and change direction. He will deal with us according to the stubbornness within us. Those who are humble and respond quickly to the conviction of the Spirit need not experience a harsh correction. As the Psalmist declared:

Psalms 32:9

Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.

God will jerk our head around forcefully if that is what is required. Yet we can make ourselves sensitive to His voice where such force is not needed. We can choose to obey when we hear that still, small voice speaking to us.

I urge all who read this to consider that Yahweh has given us the illustration of Joshua leading the children of God in to take possession of the land of Canaan as a pattern and instruction for our own lives. Yahweh is determined that we drive out every enemy in the land, and bring everything under His dominion.

Many on this mailing list know that God has called them to be ministers in the last days, leading others to repentance and righteousness. Understand then that all who would be used of the Lord in coming days must themselves be set apart as vessels of honor fit for the Master's use. We must flee from all that is unrighteous. We must respond with great focus when the Spirit points out some enemy in our land that He wants us to exercise dominion over. If we would rule with Christ as overcomers in the age to come, we must first rule with Him over this flesh until we can declare that "the kingdom of God is within [us]."

I would once more urge all those who have not read the writing "*Possessing the Land*" to do so. In it you will see the desire of God for His children to place every enemy under their feet.

In closing, I desire to allay the concerns of those who are startled by my health issues, and my choosing to not see a doctor. It is difficult to not be influenced by the attitude of the world concerning almost all things. One thing that the world manifests is a fear of death. Death for a child of God is not to be feared. It is something that all must experience. I am content to allow Yahweh to choose the limits of my life on earth. I would that we might all have the attitude expressed by the apostle Paul when he said:

Philippians 1:21-24

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

I do look to that day when I can depart this life and go to be with Christ. Yet, I also desire to complete the course He has chosen for me. I desire to depart on a note of victory, rather than on a note of defeat. Any child of God who can say, "For me to live is Christ," can also say, "and to die is gain." The Lord knows I desire to be found pleasing to Him. He showed me Monday night that there is no fear in death. Let us all seek to live a life of obedience that at our appointed time we might face death with neither fear nor sorrow.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

Joseph Herrin

The Chastisement of Sons - Part 7
Joseph Herrin (04-06-2012)

Here is another testimony of the Father's chastisement of sons. This was posted on a web forum. The writer's name is Carlos. That is all the information listed. This is a testimony of a man coming into the realization that the negative events of his life were not random, but were connected to a besetting sin that he was practicing. I have included a couple of follow-up comments from the website from other readers, and Carlos' response to them. The comments are telling, revealing the unbelief among many saints and the confidence they have placed in the flesh rather than in man.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding as you read.

The effect of God's discipline in my life!
Posted by Carlos

I want to share something that I believe the Lord did in my life recently...to keep me from what could have been a falling into a life of sin. It might encourage some of you or even challenge you. It might even move some to repent of similar sin. My main purpose in sharing this is to give glory to the living Lord.

I wondered about sharing this so publicly but at the same time I am reminded of Jesus's warning against hypocrisy. That there is nothing hidden which shall not be revealed. And in so far as the Lord might use what I share to the good of some...I wanted to share.

Anyway here is my journal entry detailing what happened to me. This all happened a few weeks ago.

My computer is now working. Earlier today, the screen was not working and I could see nothing (even though both Windows and Linux were coming on to their respective intro music).

I believe that I have seen the hand of the living God disciplining me through my circumstances again. For the third time.

The first time was a little over two weeks ago when I went off and watched Internet porn. The next morning, the radiator on my truck sprung a very serious and massive leak. I wondered if that was God's discipline somehow but pretty much ignored the thought.

Then a few days later I went off and watched porn again. This time, the next morning found me with a very bad sinus infection which I have been getting over for going on two weeks now. There was no clue that it was coming. It just hit me and overwhelmed me that morning. I wondered then too if that was God's discipline but wasn't sure.

Finally last night, I wanted to watch porn again and would have done so but I was so

incredibly tired that I just couldn't be bothered. My not doing it was certainly not motivated by godly motives of wanting to please the Lord. My heart was committed to doing it but I just couldn't be bothered to hook everything up for the Internet to access the porn. I was so tired.

Today...when I got on the computer for the first time...the screen was blank. Well...all but blank, except for a few lines in it. There was obviously something wrong with my computer screen.

I was told by a computer fellow that it was probably the LCD emitter or something similar. Only about \$100 to fix but given that I did not have \$100 to plunk down on this problem it all but would have left me without a phone (I use my computer to make calls), without being able to print my business cards - which I need to do real bad, without effective email, without being able to sell my business database of customers - on the computer, and many other things.

So...without my computer I went to see a movie. When I got out, I decided to turn my computer on just to see if it was still not usable and lo and behold it came up normally.

Now I can't say with absolute certainty that this too was God's discipline but I find it rather telling that each time I have gone off and either watched porn or set my heart to do so...something very bad has happened to me the next day. The bible says every fact shall be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. This is now the third witness that something bad is likely to happen to me if I go off and watch porn again.

I need to stop. Plain and simple. I cannot risk another bad thing to go and watch porn. If this is not God's active and personal discipline then it strikes me as rather miraculous that three bad things, really bad things, have happened so coincidentally after my three times of watching porn. I cannot...dare not...take the chance of ignoring what appears to be God's discipline of my sin.

The Bible says to not take lightly the discipline of the Lord but rather to make straight paths for my feet. Paths of righteousness. To walk righteously. How else was the Lord supposed to get my attention other than how He has?

Interestingly my computer has worked flawlessly since I experienced it not working as described above. It has not experienced any problems at all since last month.

Until today. For a few brief moments it stopped working again. I had been sinking into depressive thoughts. The world situation, the situation in the States, my brother being diagnosed with cancer in one of his kidneys, being stuck in Canada yet once more, bad back, etc., etc. When I get that way I am all the more likely to go off and do what I shouldn't.

Well...the computer did not work again for a few brief moments. It had been working. When I closed the lid...it stopped working. I prayed and asked the Lord to please let my computer

work again...turned it off, back on and it worked again.

It also reminded me of the discipline I experienced and that the Lord does not want me to go off and watch internet porn!

I have not watched porn since the Lord disciplined me and my heart is committed to not doing so. I am too afraid of the consequences. I think it's called the fear of God in the Bible. A respectful awareness of who God is and what He is capable of doing to discipline me as His child.

A while back I had fallen into a daily habit of watching porn in an apartment I was renting. It was so easy to go off into a make believe life to soothe whatever ache, depression, or anxiety I was feeling at the time. Or even for no other reason than being bored. I knew it was wrong and that I shouldn't do it but I grew comfortable with this sin.

Through a series of circumstances which were not my fault...I got kicked out of my apartment. Unfairly so. I probably could have sued. Among other things the landlord has some real issues in his life. Like screaming at tenants. Something I told him I wouldn't put up with when he started screaming at me for something that did not call for screaming.

What I find interesting in hindsight is that the Lord seemed to have had His hand in that too. In my getting kicked out I mean. It is not easy for me to watch porn over the Internet while living in my truck. Not nearly as easy as watching it in the privacy of my own apartment.

I was at that apartment for all of about two months. Though I did not watch porn all that time I did fall into watching it daily toward the end.

Looking back on things I would have to say that the Lord's hand has probably been involved in disciplining me for this or that before but...I have been too blind to see it. Until now. My senses have become more aware of the connection between difficult circumstances that may happen to me and the need in my life at the time for some good ol fashioned discipline. From the hand of my heavenly Father.

I am so thankful that the Lord did not let me continue sinning! I trust Him to be there for me in the future and if need be, to discipline me again. It would be better to be sure if I just did the right thing. But His discipline is there should I need it. Just like the discipline an earthly father should give his children. It is a good thing!

In closing I would like to quote a series of verses on the discipline of God. There is a lot to chew on there.

The quote is from the King James which is not copyrighted. I have taken liberty to change some of the words used to their modern day equivalents and have changed the order of some words to say things, again, using modern language constructs. You can look up the verses in whatever version you use if you don't like what I have done with it here (don't get caught up in the changes I have made and miss whatever good there is to be learned from

how the Lord disciplined me through my circumstances).

Quote:

In your striving against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to children, My son, don't despise the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked by him; For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son who he receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he who the father chastens not? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had earthly fathers who corrected us, and we gave them respect: shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live? For in truth, for a few days they chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems joyful, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them which are trained by it. Therefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Carlos

[End Post]

A forum member called Moonsavvy wrote:

Internet porn or porn in general can be highly addictive. If you make up your mind not to watch it and then watch it anyway it could be that you are addicted. My ex husband suffered from this and it was very sad to watch someone struggle.

I hope that you will consider looking into professional services for it will progress even if God is "disciplining" you. I appreciate your honesty (sic) for I'm sure you are filled with shame and guilt, yet you can recover from this and I hope you will. Many blessings to you.

Carlos Responded:

Actually I am not filled with shame and guilt. I am filled with thankfulness that God dealt with me as He did. That I am forgiven in Christ and that my Father loves me enough to not let me get away with anything and everything.