

Deuteronomy 8:5

You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

I bet we could all tell some great and funny stories of how we were punished as kids and some of the spankings we gotten. I remember one time when I was about 5 years old, my two older sisters got in trouble, and in the heat of the moment, my mom told me to give her my belt so that she could spank my sisters with it, and my response was “no”. That’s all I remember.

I also remember one time my nephew got in trouble, and his uncle (my brother in law) pulled out this weightlifting belt and told him he was going to spank him with it if he didn’t mind. Now, I’m not sure if you have ever seen a weightlifting belt, but it’s about as big as a small girdle, or think of those belts movers wear to protect their back. They are so big that they would not hurt you, and would not have the sting of a regular belt, but it was the size that was intimidating.

Ok, one more. Another time when I was a young teenager, I get into big trouble and I was put on restriction for a month. Now back then, my favorite thing to do was go to the skating rink and roller skate, and I couldn’t for a whole month. I accepted my punishment quietly and waited for the month to be over. But around the same time, my sister got in trouble and was put on restriction for a week. And for a week, she made everyone miserable with her constant whining and complaining.

But as we have grown up, we all have learned that it’s not fun punishing our children (But kids don’t realize that). Even as an adult, I’m not good at it, because I don’t like to punish my kids. But there are times they go to far and they deserve it. Once again I don’t like to do it, but I also know it’s for their own good.

Well, by now I think you can tell where I am going with this, which is leading up to today’s verse, which says: *You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.*

The book of Hebrews quotes a form of this:

† **Hebrews 12:5-6** *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*

Which is actually from the book of Proverbs.

† **Proverbs 3:11-12** *My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

So as kids we didn't enjoy getting punished, but as adults we know we deserved it. And as parents we don't take joy in punishing our kids, we just hope that our kids would be perfect and not mess up. But we all know we have a better chance of winning the Lotto then having kids that never got punished for messing up.

But for us, sometimes we think the Lord is too hard on us when we do get punished. And how many take it like my sister did and whine and complain to everyone, making their lives miserable as well? But even though it's not fun, we should still rejoice in our punishment. No, I'm not talking let's go celebrate and party because the Lord punished me type of rejoicing, but rejoicing in the fact that we are His children. Did you catch it in Proverbs 3:12 *For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Just as our parents corrected us because they loved us and wanted to teach us, and just as we as parents love our children and punish them to teach them, so God does the same thing because He loves us and we are His children.

Isn't it great to know that we have a Awesome, Loving, Father who cares enough about us to correct us so we can learn from our mistakes, and also to keep us from making worse mistakes. So learn from the Father's correction, and be thankful to Him that He loves you enough to correct you, because you are legitimately His child and no longer a child of the devil.

† **Hebrews 12:7-11** *If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*