

Hebrews 12:11

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.

Now, how's that for a Monday morning, start your week off, devotional verse?
Or how many of you would actually be crazy enough to highlight or underline this verse in your bible? I actually highlighted it in my bible on my iPad.
Our how many would want this on your coffee mug or framed and hung in your living room to see and read every day?

We read the words *chastening* and *painful* and think, "I want nothing to do with that stuff" and I do admit, it is hard to swallow and even cling to, but it is in God's word and it is instruction for us as believers. Therefore we must read it, follow it and accept it.

Why? Because *afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

But you must also go back and read several verses before this one to understand what Paul is talking about.

† **Hebrews 12:5-10** *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." 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.*

Simply, as kids we were corrected by our parents. You start to run out into the street as a child, your parents would grab you before you could get hurt, but then hurt you by swatting you on your but a few times. It was painful, but not as painful as it would had been if you got hit by a car. Yet we didn't stop loving our parents because we did, but rather we learned from that pain not to go running out into the middle of the street.

But then if you go back to the previous chapter in Hebrews, to chapter eleven, which is known as the Hall of Faith chapter. It's called that because it speaks of many in the Old Testament who walked and lived by faith. But if you read about all these people in the bible that are mentioned in Hebrews, you will see that it wasn't an easy road. And for each and every one God had to chastise or correct them at one time or another. So when God corrects us, we should know that

we are in good company. Sometimes it was because they got puffed up in what God was doing through them, and God needed to bring them back down to earth and reality.

God does that with us to. I know for me, God has to keep me in check because of all that He has gifted me to do, which is teach His word, write and record Worship music, and write Christian novels. It's so easy to get puffed up and think you are something great, but the reality is we are not great, it's GOD working through us that the greatness happens. So we can't boast in anything we do, we should only boast in the Lord and what He is doing through us.

† **1 Corinthians 1:30-31 (NLT)** *God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the LORD."*

When we start boasting in ourselves or even think we have done something great, that is when the Lord may step in and remind us Who the great One really is, and that it's not us!

† **Psalm 34:2** *My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad.*