

welcome to the
fruit factory
What fruit is your life producing?



Pastor Hugh's Message Series Sundays 9am & 10:30am

Great Pain. Great Gain. (Heb 12:3-11)
March 16, 2025

Heb 12:7-11

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- A. Welcome to the Fruit Factory! As I have been sharing each week, as a Church and as Christians we are to be fruit factories for Jesus.

Your life should be producing the fruit of Jesus.
And in fact, the longer you live for Jesus, the more fruit of Jesus you should produce.

- B. Last week we discovered how to pray for fruit for all who come to Pearl:

- Pray we GROW (deeper & stronger);
- BE GODLY (walk, talk, & thought), and
- Give the GOSPEL)

- C. Today, we look at another "fruit" in God's Word, and it's the fruit of righteousness.

You are going to discover today that God wants to produce the fruit of righteousness in your life.

- God's greatest work in you is His salvation. He's delivered you from the dominion of darkness and brought you into the kingdom of the Son He loves (Col. 1:13)
 - But His ongoing work in you is His righteousness. He's working to conform you to the likeness of Jesus (Rm. 8:29)
- D. And guess how God is going to produce the fruit of righteousness in your life?

It's called **PAIN**.

God's going to produce seasons of pain throughout your life.

And as you have heard said before:

NO PAIN. NO GAIN.

But today, you are going to discover this truth:

GREAT PAIN. GREAT GAIN.

E. None of us here today like pain.

But the reality is, life comes with many pains.

Ex. Just talk with the people who lost so much through the tornados, wildfires, and hurricanes.

They can tell you a ton about pain.

Well, guess what? The Christian Life also comes with pain.

F. God doesn't save you and make you IMMUNE to pain.

I'll tell you what He does:

God saves you, and takes you, and molds you THROUGH the pain.

G. God's got some essential truths He wants you to learn today. Truths about Himself, and truths about yourself.

And He REALLY wants you to learn them SOONER and not LATER.

Today's lesson is not one you want to learn tomorrow, but you want to learn today.

In fact, the sooner you learn this lesson, the better your life in Christ will be.

H. What does God want you to learn?

3 lessons this morning. And here's the first.

1. God is Always Working His BEST

⁶ for the Lord disciplines the one he loves and punishes every son he receives.

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline: God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there that a father does not discipline?

A. When you get saved, you are born into God's family.

Do you know what that really means?

It means God is not only your Creator, and not only your Judge, and not only your King, and not only your Savior, but God is also YOUR FATHER.

B. That means you have a Father/Son, Father/Daughter relationship with God.

And you get to call Him your "Abba" (Father/Daddy).

That's the most personal name you can ever call God.

C. As I told you before, only my daughters, Lara & Natalie, call me Dad. Do you know why? Because they are my kids.

You don't call me Dad. That would be weird.

I'm grateful to be called Pastor Hugh.

And don't think about calling me Father Hugh.

- D. But we are so blessed to call God, Father (Abba)
And it's because God has adopted us as His kids.

And so, guess what that means?

It means our Father God is going to raise us as His kids.
It means our Father God is going to raise us to walk like,
talk like, think like, and be like Him.

- E. And guess how He is going to get you to become like Him?
⁶ for the Lord disciplines the one he loves
and punishes (scourges) every son he receives

The writer of Hebrews is quoting Prov. 3:12, and notice:

The Lord DISCIPLINES
And SCOURGES (whips)

- F. What does the Bible mean by discipline and scourging?
It means God is going to give you the right hand of
fellowship (on your behind).

How many of you gave the right hand of fellowship to your
kids?

- G. Well, God gives the right of fellowship to ALL His kids.
Not because He hates you, but because He loves you.

⁶ for the Lord disciplines the one he loves

Truth is, if you are not experiencing any of God's discipline,
you are not one of His kids.

Heb. 12:8

But if you are without discipline—which all receive—then
you are illegitimate children and not sons.

That means you are not truly in God's family. You're
illegitimate.

- H. But since you are one of His kids, He loves you so much
that He is going to discipline you.

Heb. 12:7

⁷ God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is there
that a father does not discipline?

(Just as earthly fathers discipline their kids, our
Heavenly Father disciplines His)

- I. Heb. 12:9

⁹ Furthermore, we had human fathers discipline us, and we
respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the
Father of (our) spirits and live?

You received and respected your earthly father's discipline.
Shouldn't you receive and respect even more your Spiritual
Father's discipline?

- J. If you are a child of God, you should be expecting and accepting God's right hand of fellowship in your life. You should receive and respect your Heavenly Father's discipline.

Now, I'm not saying you should be jumping for joy when you feel like God is spanking you. But you should humble yourself before God and know He is working His best for you.

- K. And that brings me to ask this question:

What does God mean by discipline?

Some people believe it means PUNISHMENT.

"I've done something wrong and God's punishing me."

You've got it all wrong. Because if you are born again, child of God, Jesus took all your punishment on the cross with His blood. And because of the blood, you've been pardoned. And that means there's nothing you can do or will do for God to punish you. It's all covered by the Blood!

And to say or think you are being punished by God, is a total disrespect for the blood of Jesus.

So, stop buying the lie God is punishing you.

- L. But do know this.

God is working His best for you.

That's what He's really doing in your life.

In fact, the word discipline is the word "paideia"

(meaning the training up of a child)

God is training up His kids.

And as His child, God is training you.

And He's training you by correcting you, directing you, protecting you, guarding you, and guiding you.

- M. I think about what Moses told the children of Israel who were experiencing some rough & tough times in their lives:

Deut. 8:15-16

¹⁵ God led you through the great and terrible wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty land where there was no water. He brought water out of the flint rock for you. ¹⁶ He fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had not known, in order to humble and test you, so that in the end he might cause you to prosper.

I think about David, who wrote:

Psalm 119:71

It was good for me to be afflicted so that I could learn your statutes.

- N. You've got to get this down.

God is going to either AUTHOR or ALLOW you to go through times that are rough and tough. But it's not because He has a problem with you. It's because He loves you. And He's working His best for you.

God is always working His Best

2. God is Always Working Out My MESS

Heb. 12:10

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness.

- A. In other words, your parents when it came to discipline, did what they thought worked.

My dad thought the belt worked.

My mom thought washing my tongue out with soap worked.

My grandmother thought a Hickory switch worked (and the smaller the better).

My mom thought practicing the piano 30-minutes a day worked.

- B. But notice what we learn about God:

Heb. 12:10b

but he does it for our benefit, so that we can share his holiness.

God is always working for what benefits us.

In other words, for what profits us.

That means **God's discipline of us is always PERFECT.**

- C. God does not discipline us on a whim.

God does not react or overreact.

God is never extreme or excessive.

And He never does too much or too little.

God's discipline is tailor-made and customized just for you.

And what God is doing with you is perfect for you.

- D. Now the question is, what is God doing? Why is He disciplining me?

Heb. 12:10b

...so that we can share his holiness.

God is not out to GET YOU.

God is not out to DISHEARTEN YOU.

God is not out to DISCOURAGE YOU.

God is not out to DENY YOU.

God is not out to DESTROY YOU.

GOD IS OUT TO DEVELOP YOU.

E. And what God wants to develop is **HOLINESS**.
He wants you to share in His holiness.

And holiness means “to be set apart”
God says, “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16)

God wants your life to be completely set apart from this world and set apart to God; Set apart to God’s plan and purpose for your life.

F. So what is keeping you from being fully set apart to God?

Can I give you some thoughts?

(1) PRIDE is keeping you from being fully set apart to God

You can do life, work, school, church, family, friends, and have ZERO connection to God. You believe in God. You’re just not dependent upon God.

But then God disrupts your wonderful life, and you wonder what’s going on in my life?

Well, God’s wanting you to see. You can’t make it without ME!

(2) BUSY-NESS is keeping you from being fully set apart to God.

Your life is busy! You have work, school, kids, sports, and you’re always running the roads to the next event, and those things are stealing your time from seeking God and serving God.

You wish you could serve God at Pearl, but you just can’t fit God in your busy schedule.

But then God puts on the brakes; Maybe the car breaks down; Maybe there’s an injury/sickness; but it’s really God showing you how much you need Him and how little you need everything else.

BUSY – Being Under Satan’s Yoke

(3) FEAR is keeping you from being fully set apart to God.

You struggle with fear, and your fear keeps you from experiencing God’s blessings in your life.

Fear keeps you from teaching, ministering, attending Grow Group, going on mission, sharing the gospel, or singing in the choir.

But then God allows you to hear or see what you missed because of your fear. What’s He doing? He’s wanting you to stop fearing your way through life, and start FAITHING your way through life.

(4) CONTROL is keeping you from being fully set apart to God.

You like being in control.

You control most everything in your life.
You control the who, what, when, where, how, and why in your life.
And when you find something or someone you can't control, you don't allow it in your life.

And you have your life all mapped out.
But then God sends a major disruption in your life.
And you're wondering, what is God doing?

And He's reminding you He's in control.
And when you trust Him, He'll work not just a better plan. He'll work the BEST plan.

- G. Let me tell you what God is really doing in all our lives.
He's working to get all the MESS and the MESSINESS out of your life.

His ultimate work is to get the me out of me, so He can have all of me, and work His will in and through me.

God is Always Working Out My MESS

3. God is Always Working to BLESS

Heb. 12:11

No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- A. No doubt, God's discipline; God's directing us, correcting us, protecting us, guarding us, and guiding us is NO FUN. And quite frankly, it's rough & tough. In fact, it's painful.

- B. But listen carefully.
GREAT PAIN produces GREAT GAIN.

And in fact, I've said this before.

"God won't use you greatly, until you've been hurt deeply."

- C. What great gain will great pain produce?

Heb. 12:14b

Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

It's LATER. Not right now, but later.

In other words, you don't know what God's doing with you right now, but you will LATER.

You may think your life is falling apart right NOW.

But you're going to see how God is bringing your life together LATER.

You may feel STRESSED right NOW, but don't worry, you'll be BLESSED later.

- D. And by the way, when you are experiencing the pain of God's discipline in your life, let me caution you about a few things.

1) Don't get discouraged.

Heb. 12:3

For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary...

Become spiritually fatigued; in other words, you get discouraged.

Satan's greatest weapon against you is
DISCOURAGEMENT.

He makes you feel like everything is falling apart.
But keep your eyes on Jesus, because He wants you to know it's all coming together.

2) Don't give up.

Heb. 12:3b

For consider him who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, so that you won't grow weary and give up (lose heart)

The easiest thing to do when you feel defeated and discouraged is throw in the towel. Quit.
But that's more a commentary on you than it is on God.

Jesus didn't quit. Even when the world was against Him, He still went to the cross.

The easiest thing to do is give up on God, people, and even yourself. And Satan would want nothing better than for you to throw in the towel.

3) Endure the pain.

Heb. 12:7

⁷ Endure suffering as discipline:

Endure = remain under; remain in the pain.
Because, if you jump out of it, you will miss God's lessons from it.

And what I've learned is that if I don't learn God's lesson now, I will repeat that lesson later.
In other words, God will keep making me repeating the class until I learn His lesson.

- E. And the lesson is the blessing.
And what's the blessing?

Heb. 12:11

Later on, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The blessing is that you will produce fruit; fruit that is peaceful.

Instead of panic, you'll have peace.
Instead of chaos, you'll have comfort.
Instead of fear, you'll have faith.

In other words, pass this test in your life and it will bring forth REST in your life. That is, you will rest in God's hand and God's plan for your life and for whatever He allows or authors in your life.

- F. And you'll also produce the fruit of righteousness in your life.

In other words, you will walk like, talk like, and live like Jesus.

And that's God's #1 plan for your life.

When God squeezes you, He wants to see Jesus come out of you.

Conclusion:

As the story goes, a little piece of wood once bitterly complained because its owner kept whittling away at it, gouging it and making holes in it. But the one who was cutting it paid no attention to the stick's protests. He just kept whittling away, until after much complaint, he said to the wood, "Little piece of wood, without these rifts and holes, and all this cutting, you'd be just a stick forever--a useless piece of ebony. What I am doing now may seem as if I am destroying you, but instead I am changing you. Soon, from you will be the sound of sweet music that will charm the souls of many and comfort sorrowing hearts. My cutting you is because I'm making you into a beautiful flute. And soon your tunes will be a blessing to the world.

God is always working His BEST

God is always working out My MESS

God is always working to BLESS

But it's up to you if you are going to pass God's test.