

What is the Fruit of Your Life?

Matthew 12:33: (NASB) Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.



We all have heard analogies regarding fruit... "That was a fruitful trip." "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." "What a fruitcake!" "We are hoping the experience bears fruit." "Please, with a cherry on top!" "He went bananas!" "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch!" You get the idea! Fruit gives us a sensible and understandable way to define life - and it's tasty too! Not surprisingly, fruit is a centerpiece of New Testament teaching, so let's take a look!

First of all, it's all about fruit!

<u>John 15:1-2</u>: (NASB) ¹I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

What does this really mean? It has the meaning of "taking up," and not "taking away."

Removes: (KJV = "taketh away") Strongs #142 airw airo ah'-ee-ro 1) to raise up, elevate, lift up 1a) to raise from the ground, take up: stones 2) to take upon one's self and carry what has been raised up, to bear 3) to bear away what has been raised, carry off

A couple of examples:

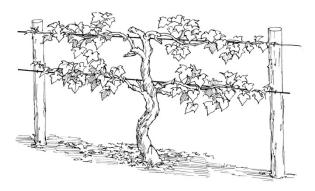
<u>Matthew 15:37</u>: And they did all eat, and were filled: and they <u>took up <142</u>> of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

<u>Matthew 16:24</u>: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up <142> his cross, and follow me.



• So, our objective today is to cut off last season's growth. To keep the structure of the vine in a manageable form, we are going to cut off 90 percent of what grew last year and leave two canes to lay down for next year's growth.

Perhaps the idea of this is not *removal* but instead *revival*. After all, the text is talking about branches *in* Jesus.

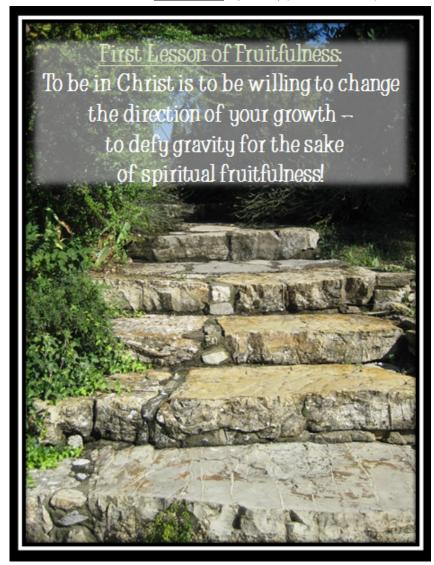


(Source: The Secrets of the Vine, Bruce Wilkinson, a vinedresser) Page 34: New branches have a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground. But they don't bear fruit down there. When branches grow along the ground the leaves get coated in dust. When it rains they get muddied and mildewed. The branch becomes sick and useless. ... These branches are much too valuable to cut off. We go through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for these branches. We lift them up and wash them off. Then we wrap them around the trellis or tie them up. Pretty soon they're thriving.



The vinedresser literally picks them up and cleans them off. Perhaps that is what Jesus is telling us - the branches that do not bear fruit are lifted up so that they can be cleaned and bear fruit.

John 15:3: (NASB) you are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.



Typically we look to the earthly ambitions and tendencies, but we need to look up - heavenward - to see what the Lord requires of us and how we can please Him.

Ephesians 4:13-15: (NASB) ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ,

Decide what to keep, How to Prune Grape Vines, Oregon State University

• When I come to a vine to prune it, the first thing I look for is which canes I want to keep; which are the ones I want to lay down. So let's say I pick this one and this one. Everything else is going to get cut off and pulled out of the trellis and be laid in the row to be chopped later. So, we will make a cut here and here.



Shouldn't being fruitful be easier once we are in Christ?

Galatians 5:13-17: (NASB) ¹³For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Jesus is the greatest symbol of love for our fellow man that ever lived. Why would we bite and devour one another if we are Christians? So many of us fail to act Christ-like.

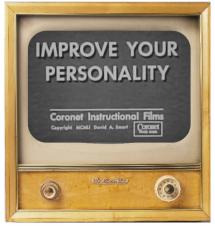
¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh ¹⁷For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please...

Just because we are in Christ and called to freedom does not mean we are exempt from the desires and choices of the flesh. "Being fruitful in Christ" is making the daily choice to put our own will away and put on the will of Christ.

Our fruit has to really be developed - we can't just hang it on the outside like an ornament and pretend to be religious so we can look good. That is not what the Lord is looking for.

(1951) What is personality, Improve Your Personality, Coronet Instructional Films

• What do we mean when we talk about personality? What is your personality? It is the way you get along with other people around you and with your changing environment. You want certain things from other people and from environment. The way to go about getting those things reveals your personality. For example: did you ever want to go one place when the gang wanted to go somewhere else? What did you do? How pleasant was your personality?



<u>Galatians 5:19-21</u>: (NASB) ¹⁹Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The fact that we are informed of all these things warns us of their possibilities in our lives. Some of these "fruits" of darkness seem far less ominous than others. For example, *disputes* and *envy* do not seem as bad as *immorality* and *idolatry*, yet all can keep us out of the kingdom. We have to watch for the little insidious things as well as the obvious.





Now, onto the business of the specifics of spiritual fruit!

Galatians 5:22-26: (NASB) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

Here is how Vicki remembers the Fruits of the Spirit:

(Hey, whatever works!)

LOVE, JOY, PEACE + "Package of Figs"

"PKG:" Patience, Kindness, Goodness

"FGS:" FaithFulness, Gentleness, Self-Control





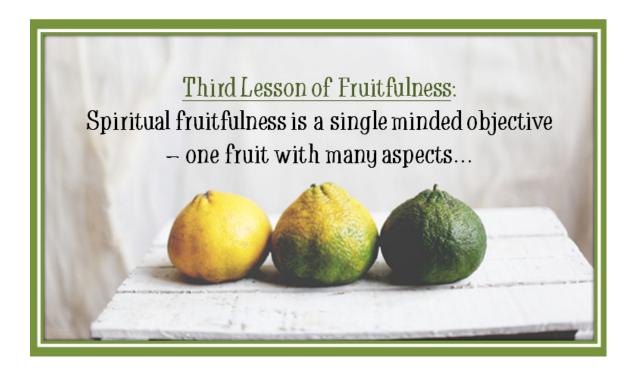
Observations about the statement the fruit of the Spirit:

- This fruit is compared to the deeds of the flesh in Galatians 5:19.
- Fruit is a *result*. It is the culmination of whatever tending, care and pruning has been put into the tree. It is not where you start but is the harvest. What has my life produced to this point?
- "Fruit" is singular, implying all of these characteristics which are products of the spirit are needed to come together to develop each individual Christian. If your spirit is fruitful, you will have all nine fruits described.
- For the true Christian, this fruit is a direct result of the power of God working in your life and through your circumstances.
- Against such there is no law implies an invitation to produce this fruit in bushels!

This is one of the most important tests of our Christianity!

<u>Philippians 3:13</u>: (KJV) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before.

The Apostle Paul had to continue to move forward. He was not afraid to be continually pruned to produce more fruit.





So, how do we track the fruitfulness of our lives?

Tracking our growth comes through being able to acknowledge, observe and measure the many aspects of Christian fruit.

The head is the source, How to Prune Grape Vines, Oregon State University

• So, we have the head area here. This is where we want our canes that we keep to originate from to keep the form. If we picked one of these canes down here to lie down, we have this area that's not being utilized. The objective is to fill the linear footage of the wire so there's a bud every four inches in an ideal world. If we lay this one down here, we have this area where there are potentially no buds and we're not using it.



Even though the person speaking is talking about the pruning of literal vines, he emphasizes the head is the source! What a great metaphor Jesus provided for us. If we grow out of Christ, we are growing in the right place! We can be pruned and our lives are branches bearing lots of fruit. Position yourself to be receptive to God's pruning.

In a real grapevine, the branches have to be horizontal to the ground in order to produce fruit. It is not the way they would naturally grow. The lesson for us is humility.

Let's take a deeper look at:

LOVE, JOY, PEACE + "Package of Figs"

The selfless ("agape") love: What effect should it have on our daily life?

Love makes us honorable:

<u>1 Corinthians 13:1</u>: (KJV) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.



Love gives meaning to our giving:

<u>1 Corinthians 13:3</u>: (KJV) And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Love is patient, kind, not envious and is humble:

<u>1 Corinthians 13:4</u>: (KJV) Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Love is always appropriate, unselfish, understanding and unassumptive:

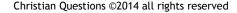
<u>1 Corinthians 13:5</u>: (KJV) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Love takes no pleasure in sin, rather its pleasure is in truth:

1 Corinthians 13:6: (KJV) Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Love is faithful:

<u>1 Corinthians 13:7</u>: (KJV) Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.





Love never fails:

<u>1 Corinthians 13:8</u>: (KJV) Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Love is the highest form of Christian expression:

<u>John 15:12-13</u>: (ASV) ¹²This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

))Bill wants the car, Improve Your Personality, Coronet Instructional Films (1951)

- (Narrator) Let's see how personality works. Bill Woodriff here has something on his mind. He wants something. In fact, Bill has his heart set on something. How he goes about getting it and the kind of success he has will reveal his personality. Let's watch.
- Mom! Oh, Mom!
- You needn't shout. I'm right here.
- Mom, I have to have the car.
- Help me with this table, Bill. There.
- But Mom, I have to have the car for the night. Where are the keys?
- Take one end of this cloth, Bill.
- But Mom, the car?
- I heard you. If you are going to insist on having an answer right now, I better say no.
- But Mom, you can't!
- It's so warm, Bill, your father and I might want to go for a drive this evening.
- (Narrator) Bill isn't doing so well is he? What went wrong? Let's see.



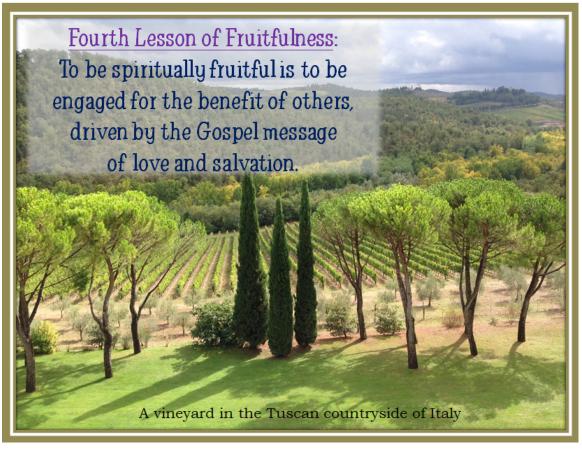
One of the secrets of love is its purpose - to help us embrace the Gospel and become like Christ!

Philippians 1:9-11: (NASB) ⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

If you aren't focusing on this as a Christian, where is your focus? We are to be engaged for the benefit of others.

Romans 12:9: (NASB) Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.





Bill gets the car, Improve Your Personality, Coronet Instructional Films (1951)

- Your personality is the way you affect other people. Think about that. Can Bill do better? Can he have a better effect on his mother? Let's see how Bill changes his personality.
- Let me help, Mom.
- Oh, alright.
- How would you like to go to the movies tonight, Mom? It's cooler. I could drive you and Dad to the show before I go. You know, Mom, this is a big deal tonight - the summer formal. My first. Other times the car isn't so important but for a formal...!
- I think you might use the car tonight unless your father has other plans, but I'll try to see that he doesn't.
- Oh thanks, Mom. You're swell!





Joy: Strongs #5479, chara (khar-ah'); cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight

The proclamation of joy:

<u>Luke 2:6-14</u>: (KJV) ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Cause for personal joy...

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy <5479>, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Cause for joy throughout the world and heaven!

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

The challenge of living in joy:

<u>Nehemiah 8:6-10</u>: (KJV) ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. ⁸So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha (governer), and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

Sometimes it becomes challenging to find joy when our own actions have been contrary to that which is right. Get up and find that directional motivation that keeps you moving forward.

¹⁰Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Prune the good canes, How to Prune Grape Vines, Oregon State University

We want to leave three good canes. Get rid of everything else.
 I tend to clean them up a little bit, meaning cut off tendrils or
 lateral shoots so it's just a nice clean cane. And then I'll tip it
 usually right below the top wire just to make it easier to
 wrap later.

The joy of Jesus applied:

<u>John 15:11</u>: These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy <5479> might remain in you, and that your joy <5479> might be full.

<u>John 17:13</u>: And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy <5479 > fulfilled in themselves.

The challenge of living in joy:

James 1:2-4: (NRSV) ²My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; ⁴and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.





LOVE + JOY = PEACE

Peace: Strongs #1515, eirene; peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity

True peace always originates with God:

Luke 2:14: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace <1515>, good will toward men.

This describes the end result of Jesus being born.

<u>Colossians 3:14-17</u>: (NRSV) ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Once clothed with love, we have all things in harmony, which can only bring joy! So, what does this combination produce...?

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, (peace is the byproduct of developing love and joy) to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

To let the peace of God rule is to accept it as a gift and not as something we develop. We develop love from within, we develop joy from within, but we accept God's peace through Jesus from above.



The challenge of living in peace:

<u>John 14:27</u>: *Peace <1515>* I leave with you, my *peace <1515>* I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Are we willing to accept the peace of Jesus, especially when our lives are tumultuous?

Not too thin or fat, How to Prune Grape Vines, Oregon State University

• Good wood is critical. We always want to lay down a good cane. That is going to be our fruit for the next year. If we lay down a good cane that has good viable buds in it, we have a good crop next year. If we lay down a weak cane that is skinny, it might not be able to support the growth; the vascular tissue might not be enough to support that many mouths to feed. You know the clusters are sinks. We also don't want ones that are bull canes. A bull cane is one that's really big in diameter. They are usually from second year growth, a latent bud that had pushed the year before for some reason. That's something like as big around as your thumb. The reason we don't want those is because the inner nodes are going to be like a foot and we don't want that.

The vines can't be too fat (too full of themselves!) or too skinny (can't support the growth that will come from them). What a great example to understand the process of pruning. We have to be willing to be pruned. God is the master at pulling things away from us we really do not need so that our lives can produce what we *do* need.

Romans 5:1-5: (NASB) ¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Accepting this peace creates a foundation for accepting whatever may come our way. Peace is internally accepting that God will overrule for our eternal best benefit. Regardless of your circumstances, your life is now focused on something higher than your surroundings.

<u>Philippians 4:4-7</u>: (NASB) ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



God's peace + Jesus, reagelshib =





If we don't show what we know, we probably aren't growing! Christian fruitfulness comes as a positive result of pruning and not because we are so good.

Love, joy and peace! Aren't these enough to be fruitful?

The pattern of the longsuffering (patience) of God:

Romans 9:20-24: (NRSV) ²⁰But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, Why have you made me like this? ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; ²³and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory - ²⁴including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?

God's longsuffering is for the purpose of showing the world His love and plan.

The pattern of the longsuffering of Jesus:

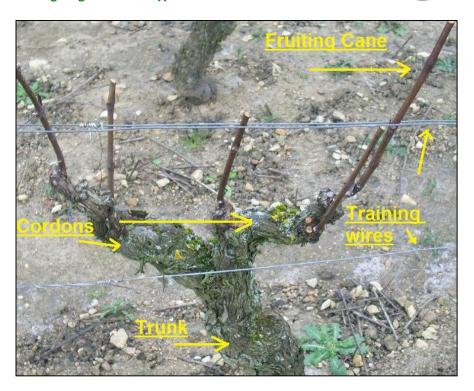
Hebrews 5:7-10: (NASB) ⁷In the days of his flesh, he offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his piety. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation, ¹⁰being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Jesus' longsuffering was for the purpose of fulfilling God's love and plan for the world of mankind.



Originate from the head, How to Prune Grape Vines, Oregon State University

• Where your canes originate from is important. We want them to originate from the head, but we also want them to be able to be laid down meaning they need to bend at a ninety-degree angle to lay down on this wire. After pruning, these guys will get tied to the fruiting wire and if they are above that fruiting wire, the angle doesn't work. You're going to try and bend it down and it's going to break off.



Luke 21:19: (KJV) In your patience possess ve your souls.

Our longsuffering is for the purpose of shaping our characters into a Christ-like format.

<u>Psalms 27:13-14</u>: (NASB) ¹³I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.

We would despair if we did not believe that producing fruit was for our eternal good and the eternal salvation of the world.

<u>1 Peter 1:6-9</u>: (NASB) ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Longsuffering from our perspective:

⁸and though you have not seen him, you love him, and though you do not see him now, but believe in him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.



Long or short, the result is beyond our comprehension.

On what do we focus? If we focus on the peace of God and what we are learning through the trials, then the trial becomes the external thing happening around us while on the inside it is the peace of God and fruitfulness. It is like being in the water but not getting wet!

<u>James 1:4</u>: (NASB) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

More fruit to come another day!

So, what is the fruit of your life?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Vicki!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

So, if you are in Jesus but not bearing fruit, you must be picked up out of the mud, cleansed and repositioned for growth - in short you must be disciplined at the loving hand of the husbandman.

Hebrews 12:4-13: (NRSV) ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children. My child, do not regard lightly the discipline <3809> of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished (rebuked) <1651> by him; ⁶for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises <3146> every child whom he accepts. ⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline <3809>. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline <3809>in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, discipline <3809> always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.



First level of training: The least painful; correction with words

Discipline - this is the overall experience of learning as a Christian.

Discipline/Chastening: Strongs #3809 paideia paideia *pahee-di'-ah*; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: chastening, chastisement, instruction, nurture.

Some examples:

<u>Ephesians 6:4</u>: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the <u>nurture <3809</u>> and admonition of the Lord.

<u>2 Timothy 3:16</u>: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction <3809> in righteousness:

Second level of training: More painful; training through action

Punished/Rebuked: Strongs #1651 elegcw elegcho *el-eg'-kho* of uncertain affinity; 1) to convict, refute, confute 1a) generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted, 1b) by conviction to bring to the light, to expose, 2) to find fault with, correct

Some examples:

<u>Ephesians 5:11</u>: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove <1651> them.

1 Timothy 5:20: Them that sin rebuke <1651> before all, that others also may fear.

Third level of training: The most painful; punishment

Discipline/Chastening: Strongs #3811 paideuw paideuo pahee-dyoo' 1) to train children 1a) to be instructed or taught or learn 1b) to cause one to learn 2) to chastise

2a) to chastise or castigate with words, to correct 2a1) of those who are molding the character of others by reproof and admonition 2b) of God 2b1) to chasten by the affliction of evils and calamities 2c) to chastise with blows, to scourge 2c1) of a father punishing his son 2c2) of a judge ordering one to be scourged

Some examples:

<u>1 Corinthians 11:32</u>: But when we are judged, we are **chastened <3811>** of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

1 Timothy 1:20: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn <3811> not to blaspheme.

Punished/Scourged: Strongs #3146. mastigow mastigoo *mas-tig-o'-o*; to flog (literally or figuratively): scourge.

Some examples:

<u>Matthew 10:17</u>: But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will <u>scourge <3146</u>> you in their synagogues;

John 19:1: Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged <3146> him.

James 5:14-15: (NRSV) ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.



- Do not lose heart when you are *rebuked* by Him scolding with words or a look that disheartens
- for the Lord disciplines those whom He loves discipline/action does not always feel like love
- chastises every child whom He accepts scourging seems to be the opposite of acceptance

The fruits of your labors may be reaped two generations from now. Trust, even when you don't see the results. -Henri Nouwen

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in your fruit salad. - Miles Kington