

CHASTENING OF THE LORD

Sunday Morning: June 2, 2002

Text: Hebrews 12:5-11 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art **rebuked** [~~scold, admonish, chide~~ convict, convince, tell a fault, reprove] of him: 6. For whom the Lord **loveth** he **chasteneth**, and **scourgeth** every son whom he receiveth. 7. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8. But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards (not being sons), and not sons. 9. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10. For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable **fruit of righteousness** unto them which are **exercised** thereby."

Continuing our studies in the book of Hebrews this morning I want to read verses 5 through 11. Last Sunday we were studying the cloud of witness in chapter eleven and we saw that they were seeking a better resurrection. The roll models in Hebrews eleven seeking a better resurrection were those who that had to put up with lions. They had to quench the violence of fire. They had to run from the threat of the sword. They were weak yet waxed valiant in fight. When you read the list of witnesses and the problems that they had, then, when you read in Hebrews chapter 12 you find out what God was doing and allowing to happen in their lives. The problems that they were experiencing were not a mistake. God allowed it for a purpose. That purpose that they might **yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness**. When you know that you are living for God and suffer difficult circumstances, not brought on by your own thoughtless impulsive behavior, then there can be peace. You may wonder what God is doing, and that is ok, there is nothing wrong with wondering what God is doing, but you must simply trust Him that He is doing the right thing. We need to remember that our God is in control and in charge, He redeemed us from bondage by paying the price and we are not our own.

Now, our earthly fathers chasten us as it seemed best for us for our profit. Some times our father might not chasten just right, but our Heavenly Father does not make that mistake.

In verse six we read the word **scourge**. I know that I was never scourge as with a whip with nine leather tails laced with glass, but I know that I have been hurt. I look at scourging as been hurt. God chastens us and causes us to hurt for a very good reason.

He also allows us to be rebuked. People do not like to be rebuked. They do not like to be corrected. The word rebuke means to scold, admonish, chide, convict, convince, to tell one's faults, to reprove. You know, that is why we come together. We come together to be encouraged to do the right thing, because we want to be as the cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11 seeking a better resurrection. We want to stand in God presence and hear "Well done, good and faithful servant." If you and I are never corrected or encouraged to do the right thing through the ministry of the Word, do you know what we become? God's brats. We become lawless and out of control, indifferent to God when we need to reverence and fear God. If God did not chasten us and cause us to hurt, we would not fear and reverence Him.

I know that there are people who struggle with chastening in their lives that are not grounded in the Word of God and their reaction to the chastening of the Lord may not produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Remember those who are trying to please God need to be exorcised by chastening and discipline in our lives so that we may be found well pleasing.

I associate the chastening of the Lord with his judgments for me. If I had a big sack of gold we would not know where to go to buy the circumstances in our lives that would produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness. What I have in mind is Psalms 19:9-10 "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." What this means is that the chastening of the Lord is more valuable than much fine gold and is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

One thing to keep in mind that if we did have a big sack of gold, we could buy our way out of character building blocks of discipline and chastening. If you read Isaiah 30 you will find out what a big bag of gold will buy you when you are under divine discipline. Isaiah 30:6-7 ". . . they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them. 7. For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: . . ."

I trust our study of the chastening of the Lord will be profitable. When we think of chastening, that does not always mean that we have been disobedient child of God. Chastening does not always mean that. Chastening has to do with discipline. When I joined the Navy I had to go through discipline. They were not chastising me, they were just making me get when I did not want to. They made me go to the hanger when I did not want to. They made me sweep and swab the barracks floors when I had rather been going on liberty. What this means is that chastening does not always mean punishment. Boot camp is the same way. Boot camp was the place where we learned that when someone gave an order, you obeyed. You do not think about the order and determine its merits. You learn in boot camp that when an order is given we are expected to obey it. When someone gives the order to duck, you fall down and thank the guy for giving the order that saved your life. The chastening of the Lord helps us to be obedient and follow the commandments and leading of the Lord. Chastening helps us to respect God's authority in our lives.

I am so thankful that when the Lord is calling the shots, He does not make mistakes while our earthly leaders do make mistakes.

Who are those that God is disciplining? He is chastening His children so that they can become sons of God. Many believe and teach that if you are saved you are a son of God. It is clear from Matthew 25:21 "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord." that faithful servants that hear "Well done." We can behave like a son, imitating the Son of God by praying "Abba, Father" as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane. Galatians 4:6-7 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7. Wherefore thou art no more a servant. . ." When we become sons of God then we are no longer a servant but a lord or a king under Jesus Christ the King of kings and Lord of lords. Until we have been judged as an overcomer we remain servants of God. That judgment will not take place until the judgment seat of Christ. Revelation 21:7 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." He that overcometh **shall be my son**. The verb "to be" is in the future tense and I believe that being placed into a position of a son will be at the beginning of the millennium based upon whether or not we have been overcomers.

SONS UNTO GLORY

Hebrews 2:10 "For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, **in bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings."

This verse tells us that Jesus Christ was made perfect or complete through sufferings. If He was made complete through sufferings, we also will be made complete through suffers. To be made complete is to become a son with the glory, honor, and responsibilities that go with that position. Sufferings include being disciplined, hurt, and the shame of rebuke. When one is rebuked there is shame. That is one of the difficulties that a pastor has when is necessary to call someone's hand on their behavior.

HE SHALL BE MY SON

Revelation 21:7 "He that **overcometh** shall **inherit** [future tense] **all things**; and I will be his God, and **he shall be** [future tense] **my son.**"

This verse tells us plainly that an overcomer shall be a son, future tense. The word *overcometh* is a present active participle which implies continuous victory on the part of the one who will one day in the future become a son. The present tense of the participle also implies that the one who is continuing to overcome can be stopped. Being an overcomer is not an even and therefore the thought of salvation does not apply.

The word *inherit* is also future tense which implies that the reward of the inheritance is not a present possession and therefore will be received when we are placed in a position of a son. son is an overcomer.

The phrase *I will be his God* is an expression of special acknowledgment or recognition. The thought I believe is expressed in Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore **God is not ashamed to be called their God.**" God will not be ashamed of those who overcome but will reward them with their inheritance and place them in positions of authority in His kingdom as a son.

PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS

Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."

Today, the sons of God are angels who rule over the earth and are defined in Ephesians 1:21 "Far above all **principality**, and **power**, and **might**, and **dominion** . ." This passage in Job 1:6 supports the thought that the sons of God are angels. The sons of God that came to present themselves before the Lord I believe were angels. Many of them were probably fallen angels and we see that Satan also presented himself with them. Daniel 10:13 "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." Michael was one of the chief princes that withstood the kings of Persia who were fallen angels. Michael is an archangel. Jude 1:9 "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, . . ."

SONS OF GOD AT CREATION

Job 38:4 ""Where were you **when** I laid the **foundation** of the **earth**? Tell Me, if you have understanding,"

Job 38:7 "When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?"

When the foundation of the earth was laid man was no where to be found. Who was there when

the foundation of the earth was laid? The morning stars and the sons of God. I believe these were angels who had not yet fallen.

BY FAITH, SONS

Galatians 3:26 "For ye **are** all the **children** [sons] of God **by faith** in Christ Jesus."

The word children should be translated *sons*, it is the Greek word υἱός. On the surface this implies that we are sons of God now. We have already shown that we do not become sons of God until we have been judge as overcomers in Revelation 21:7. What this verse tells us is that we can live like sons of God in the same spirit the Jesus Christ lived. Another indication that we are not sons of God is from the word *faith*. Faith is not a verb but a noun. What this mean, I believe, is that as long as we are pleasing God we are living like sons. The verb *ye are* is in the present tense which means the action continues. The verb *to be* does not occur in the aorist tense to this is not an event but a continuous state as long as one is living by faith. If those who are behaving themselves as the sons of God make shipwreck of the faith, they will not be overcomers therefore they will not become sons of God.

When we live by faith we know that we are pleasing Him and we are behaving as the sons of God. If we are living like a son, then we can count on being chastened or disciplined. The chastening and disciplining of the Lord is preparing us to rule and reign in His kingdom.

NOT YET MANIFESTED

Romans 8:19 "For the earnest expectation of the creature **waiteth** for the **manifestation** of the **sons of God**."

I added this verse to show that being saved does not make you a son of God. If being saved makes a son then the sons of God are manifest now. I can live like a son being victorious in my Christian life, but I may not be promoted to a position of a son because I may not overcome. If you make shipwreck of the faith you stop pleasing God and you will not be qualified to reign with Christ in his coming kingdom.

IN THE BETTER RESURRECTION

Luke 20:35-36 "But they which shall be **accounted worthy** to **obtain** that world [age], and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36. Neither can they die any more: for **they** (that are worthy) are **equal** unto the angels (sons of God); and are the **children** [sons] of God, being the **children** [sons] of the resurrection."

At the beginning of our message we made mention of a better resurrection. Being accounted worthy to obtain the age and the resurrection from the dead is I believe a reference to the better resurrection. Those who endured the sufferings in Hebrews chapter 11 are the ones who are going to obtain a better resurrection because they are accounted worthy of a better resurrection. The reason they were worthy to obtain a better resurrection was because they endured the test and trials that come under the category of chastening of the Lord.

Notice that those that are accounted worthy will be equal with angels in verse 36. Who are angels? They are sons of God. To obtain the resurrection from the dead means that you will be place in a position of a son to rule in the kingdom of the heavens.

Angels today are in positions of honor as kings and princes. Most of the angels today are those that fell with Satan and are having an evil administration over the nations they have been given. There will come a day when Satan and his angels will be kicked out of heaven. Those who are accounted worthy of the resurrection will assume those positions as kings and lords over those nations. You may be the king of Persia. You might be the king over the United States, only the

Lord knows who will be qualified to take those positions.

BEHAVING AS SONS

Galatians 4:6 "And because **ye are sons**, God hath sent forth the **Spirit of his Son** into your hearts, crying, **Abba, Father.**"

If we are pleasing God by living like a son, then the Father will send the spirit of His Son into our hearts that will allow us to cry, "Abba, Father". We are behaving like a son when we are able, from our hearts, to cry, "Abba, Father". What that means is found in the following verse.

THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON

Mark 14:36 "And he said, **Abba, Father, all things are possible** unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless **not what I will, but what thou wilt.**"

Jesus prayed "Abba, Father". By praying "Abba, Father" you are acknowledging God the Father can do anything that pleases Him. He has the power and the authority to do "all things." The one who prays "Abba, Father" does not his will to be done but he wants God's will to be done. When you are praying, as the Lord did, "Not what I will, but what thou wilt." you are living like a son. If you are demanding God to heal you or give you riches you are not living like a son. You are living like you are in charge. Be assured that God is in charge and we will have to submit to his will. If we can not allow God to be in charge, then we are offended and have a tendency to depart from the Lord.

DESPISE NOT DISCIPLINE

Hebrews 12:5-6 "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto **children [sons]**, My son, **despise not** thou the **chastening [discipline]** of the Lord, **nor faint** when thou art **rebuked** of him: 6. For whom the Lord loveth he **chasteneth [discipline]**, and **scourgeth** (hurts, suffering) every son whom he receiveth."

When we are going through chastening and rebuke and hurt, God is preparing us for something special. What he wants done during our time of discipline is change.

REPENT -- CHANGE

Revelation 3:19 "As many as I love, I **rebuke** and **chasten**: be zealous therefore, and **repent.**"

This verse spells out the reason for rebuke and chastening and that is repentance. Notice that rebuke and chastening should bring about zeal on our part to change. Change is to be swift or right now. Through rebuke and chastening we find out what the Lord wants us to do and He expects us to be obedient and adjust our lifestyle right now. Our attitude should be "Now I know what the Lord wants me to do and I am going to do it now and not next week." When God told Abraham to offer Isaac what did Abraham say? Abraham did not say "I think I will take a weeks vacation or a sabbatical." Abraham did not even sleep in the next morning. What Abraham did was get up early the next morning and left to do God will. How soon do we need to change? Now! When you find out something is not right in your life, change is right away. When we change we can be assured that we are doing God's will and that will bring peace.

BRINGS PEACE

Hebrews 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but **grievous**: nevertheless afterward it **yieldeth** the **peaceable fruit** of righteousness unto them which are **exercised** thereby."

The tree of chastening yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. That fruit is brought forth when we are exercised by that chastening. When you are doing the right thing you are going to have peace. The fruit of righteousness is peaceful.

LEARN OBEDIENCE

Hebrews 5:8 "Though he were a Son, yet **learned** he **obedience** by the things which he **suffered**;"

As a son, Jesus Christ was the only one who was born qualified to rule and reign. The wise men asked the question where is He that is born King of the Jews. That is the reason that Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was born King. The angels told Mary that the government would be upon his shoulders.

When Jesus, the third person in the Godhead, became a man he placed himself in a position so that He could learn through experience the things that man experiences daily. Jesus learned obedience by the things which he suffered even though we were a son. The word *were* is a present active participle without the definite article. That makes the participle *he were* an adjective describing the Son. The description is that of being a Son, or behaving as a son not yet placed into that position of glory and honor as a king.

I do not fully understand this verse, but I do know that as the Son of God Jesus learned obedience. I am not yet a son of God and I really need to learn obedience so that one day I can be placed in a position of a son. When I suffer for Christ sake I can respond with rebellion or with submission. If I want to be a son, it must be submission to the lesson to be learned through the assignment of suffering.

REBUKE BY DOCTRINE

2 Timothy 4:2 "**Preach the word**; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort** with all longsuffering and **doctrine**."

I was talking previously about the fact the ministry of the Word is sometime not pleasant. Paul told Timothy to "Preach the Word" which will reprove, rebuke and exhort not only Timothy but those to whom he is ministering the Word.

When our daughter came into the world she was not potty trained. I could reprove, rebuke, and exhort from day one, but you know what? I had to be longsuffering or patient with my daughter. It took a while for her to change. That is the way it is in all of our lives, it will take a while to get things straighten out in our lives. As a pastor and teacher, I can exhort but I do not expect results instantaneously. God is the one in charge and impressing the message to our hearts that "I want you to change now." All I can do is to say is what the Word says and I need to patient and longsuffering. I do expect change and so does God.

DISCIPLINE

1 Peter 1:6-9 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in **heaviness** through **manifold temptations**: 7. That the **trial** of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8. Whom having not seen, **ye love**; in whom, though now ye see him not, **yet believing**, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable and full of glory**: 9. Receiving the **end of your faith**, even the salvation of your souls."

The discipline, 1 Peter tells us some things about disciplining. I did not put it in the notes. One thing that I have found is that one of the greatest disciplines that I know of is waiting upon the Lord. No body likes to wait. My last name begins with a W. I have been waiting all of my life because my last name is at the end of the alphabet. When I got in line to get paid when I was in the Navy, I was toward the end of the line. When we lined up in school to go to lunch, I was at the end of the line. No body likes to wait, but God delights in waiting. We see this in Isaiah 30:18 "And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be

exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him."

You can find all through the Psalms to wait on God. Wait on God. What happens when you don't wait on God? You get in trouble. So is there is the discipline of waiting upon the Lord.

This passage deals with the trial of your faith. It says "Where in ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." or testings. Notice the words in particular "If need be, ye are in heaviness." There are times when we need to be in heaviness. This is a heavy heart and a reference to pounds. A heavy heart. Your heart hurts because of the trial. There are times when we need that. If did not hurt or if it did not ache there would be no test. If there were no pain there would be no test. There are times when we need to be heavy because that is when our faith in God is revealed.

Notice that we should desire to be in heaviness more than having much gold. That is hard to understand that, but gold and money will be used up, but the benefit that comes from the trial of our faith will last through the ages. It is the end of our faith, it is the end of pleasing God that counts. I heard of a man who moving our country and he brought all of his possessions with him. When the ship entered into a storm it begin to sink. This man ran gathered all of the gold that he had brought with him and put it in his pockets then jumped into the sea. The weight of the gold pulled him to the bottom. If we could take gold with us to heaven it would be disappointing because it would be used to pave streets.

Earthly treasures are not to be compared with the trial of our faith. It is the trial of our faith, pleasing God, that will cause us to stand approved in His presence. To stand approved qualify in His presence will provide us with joy and glory that can not be put in words.

FIERY TRIAL

1 Peter 4:12-13 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the **fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's **sufferings**; that, when his glory shall be revealed, **ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.**"

This passage in 1 Peter talks about our trials being fiery. We all know what fire is. Fire hurts. Fire burns. Fire consumes and so there are time when the trials seem to be fiery and take away more that we want. The trials that produce the best work are the ones that cost us the most.

Verse 13 reminds us that the suffering of Christ also were costly. His sufferings produced honor and glory at the right hand of His Father and our suffering will produce honor and exceeding joy. Fiery trials are not easy and that is where James 1:2-4 encourages us to endure the trying of our faith.

COUNT IT ALL JOY

James 1:2-4 "My brethren, **count it all joy** when ye fall into divers **temptations**; 3. Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience** [endurance]. 4. But let **patience** [endurance] have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

James encourages us to count it all joy when you fall into different tests. I think of a fall as something that we do not want to happen. It is an accident. When we find ourselves in trying situations, that is the time we have to count it all joy because it is not a fun time at all.

Be assured that the trying of our faith will help us to endure when we want to faint. If we do not learn to endure we will faint and be wanting what faithfulness would provide.

ENDURE AFFLICTION

James 5:10-11 "Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11. Behold, we count them happy which **endure** [υπομονω, abide under]. Ye have heard of the **patience** [υπομονη, abide under] of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

James 5 encourages us to endure afflictions. We could faint. We could quit. There are a lot of people doing that to day. They just give up and they lose. If we don't give up and continue to endure we will be blessed. The phrase "count them happy" is a present active verb that could be translated "to be blessed."

The Lord provided the sufferings of Job to help us to understand the blessing those that endure will enjoy. Job endured when he lost all of his children, riches, health and the support of his good friends. Job did not quit. Job was entire and wanting in nothing at the end. God provided him a double portion of all that he lost during his trial.

WITHOUT CHASTENING

Hebrews 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof **all** (sons of God) are partakers, then are ye illegitimate, and **not sons**."

What is happening when we are not being chastened by the Lord? What is the Lord telling us when the chastising stops or you are no longer being scourged and rebuked by God?

This passage in Hebrews 12:8 gives us some clues. If the chastening of the Lord stops he is not dealing with us as with a son. The emphasis is not on that of being illegitimate but that you are not being groomed to become a son and rule and reign with Christ. If we are not being chasten we need to know and be alerted that something is wrong. When we are without chastisement we need to know that the trial of our faith is not been producing the desire results in our live. The word "illegitimate" is only found twice. The other time is in Deuteronomy 23.

OUTSIDE THE CAMP

Deuteronomy 23:2 "An illegitimate shall **not enter** into the **congregation** of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he **not enter** into the **congregation** of the LORD."

This verse tells us the place of an illegitimate. Out side of the camp. He is out there with the unclean being separated from fellowship. The leper and the lawless are found outside of the camp. They will not rule and reign with Christ in his coming kingdom. If the Lord stops testing you for any length of time, it is time for you to start praying for insight as to what is wrong in your life. I know that Lord does give 7/24 trouble for very long. Even the children of Israel had rest from their enemies from time to time, but there were times that Lord sent enemies against them. Be assured, if you are living in sin and you are not being disciplined or rebuked about it and your heart is hard, the Lord is not grooming you to rule with Him in his kingdom.

FOR OUR PROFIT

Hebrews 12:10-11 "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he **for our profit**, that we might be partakers of his **holiness**. 11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the **peaceable fruit** of righteousness unto them which are **exercised thereby**."

The disciplines of the Lord are for our profit that we might be partakers of his holiness without which we shall not see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14 "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:" Chastening of the Lord should produce a righteous lifestyle that will give peace. This can only happen if we are exercised to self discipline that

leads to obedience because of the chastening of the Lord.

REMEMBER HIS THOUGHTS

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, **thoughts of peace**, and not of evil, to give you an **expected end**."

We need to assure ourselves that the Lord knows what He is doing. He wants us to enter into that plan and to accomplish His will. We need to believe that even though we may not be having peace at a particular time in our lives, His thoughts are of peace are filled with a future hope.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath **no temptation** (trial or discipline) taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted (trial or discipline) above that ye are able; but will with the temptation (trial or discipline) also make a way to **escape** [walk out], that ye may be able to **bear** (υποφερω, endure) it."

Everyone has trials and testings that will can produce the peaceful fruits of righteousness. These test and trials are common to all of us. Saved and lost alike have cancer. Saved and lost alike lose loved ones in death. It is common to man. It is how we respond to those test and trials is what counts. Do you accuse God of being unjust and with having evil thought toward you. Do you annul His judgments. Do we condemn Him so that we appear righteous and it causes Him to appear unrighteous. We can respond in a way that tells God that your way is not good and that we have a better way. Wrong! God knows the best way. How should we respond to the disciplines, trials, and testings? We need to bear them by praying "Abba, Father." God is faithful, He know our limitations. He knows how far he can go with us. There are times when we think He has gone too far, but he hasn't. We need to know that.

The Lord says in Isaiah 57:16 "For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made." The Lord does not want our spirit to fail nor our soul to give up in dismay. I want your spirit and soul to be sustained and to continue to the end.

God is faithful to provide a way for us to walk out of the trial unscathed so that we may continue to endure. To walk out or through the test means that there is not time for us to stop and have a pity party because of our plight.

I am so glad that the Lord is dealing with me so that one day I can rule and reign with Him. What that mean is trials, discipline, rebuke, and scourgings. He makes it possible for me to bear them and learn from them so that I will be ready to assume my place in His kingdom.