

The Greatest Gift is Love: Love Corrects II

How we receive correction is a direct reflection of our **spiritual maturity**. It is also a reflection of our **spiritual victory**. Remember: **the spiritual controls the physical**. If we don't receive correction, we step out from under God's authority, leaving us vulnerable, and susceptible to the enemy's attack. **Heb 12: 8** *But if you are **without chastening**, of which all have become partakers, then you are **illegitimate and not sons**.* Pride leads to rebellion and hinders our obedience. **James 4:6-8** *But He gives **more grace**. Therefore He says: "God **resists the proud**, But gives **grace to the humble**." 7 Therefore **submit to God**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*

The Apostle Paul was dealing with pride and a messenger of Satan was sent to buffet (beat-scourge) him. Paul cried out to God 3 times and God said "**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in (your) weakness**" (**2 Cor 12:9**). Once Paul humbled himself, God gave him more grace to overcome and resist the demonic attack. **10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities** (sickness), **in reproaches** (disasters), **in needs** (lack), **in persecutions** (people issues), **in distresses** (emotional), **for Christ's sake**. *For when I am weak, then I am strong.* What does it take for God to get **your** attention? Once God chastens us, the chastening remains until we humble ourselves and repent. Repentance in humility releases the power of grace (charis), and charis becomes charisma (the Gifts of the Spirit).

God rebukes/chastens/scourges us for 2 main reasons: 1) pride leading to disobedience and 2) being lukewarm.

In Revelation Jesus addressed the church at Laodicea who are known as "The Lukewarm Church" because they were mostly self-sufficient, and did not walk by faith. They became complacent to sin, and stopped maturing in their faith. Jesus warned "*I will vomit you out of My mouth!*" He told them to be hot or cold; anything but lukewarm!

Rev 3:19 *As many as I love, I **rebuke and chasten**. Therefore be **zealous** (enthusiastic, fervent, passionate) and **repent**.*

The 7 Churches listed in Revelation Chapter 2 and 3 are symbolic of the Church Age. Only one church did Jesus use the terms "rebuke" and "chasten" and that is the lukewarm church of Laodicea. Most Christians do not realize **being lukewarm is deadly to our faith**. Once we become lukewarm, we stop walking by faith and have become stagnant. Our relationship with the Lord is severely hindered because without faith it is impossible to please Him.

Heb 11:6 *But **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who **diligently seek Him**.* Not the ones who are lackadaisical, half-hearted, in-between, lukewarm.

James 2:26 *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also**.*

Being lukewarm is deadly to our faith because we are dying spiritually. This is why Jesus rebukes and chastens those who are lukewarm. It is not about losing our salvation, it is about losing our **victory and authority** in Christ. The lukewarm are no longer zealous for God and are not diligently seeking Him, becoming **spiritual zombies**!

James 5:16 *Confess (in humility) your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you **may be healed**. The effective, **fervent** (hot, passionate, enthusiastic, zealous) prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

Confession takes humility. Lukewarm Christians think they are fine and have no need to confess their trespasses (sins), or they realize they need to, but their pride keeps their sin in darkness. It will also stop them from coming to the altar.

1 Cor 11:30-32 *For this reason many are **weak and sick among you**, and many sleep. 31 For if we would **judge ourselves**, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, **we are chastened by the Lord**.* Self-discipline or God-discipline?

Get On-Fire for God! Repent and be Zealous! Don't be a Lukewarm Zombie!

-Expressive praise and worship, especially teruah shouts **Ps 100:4** *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.* Expressive worship is putting "good works" to our faith.

-Praying and singing in the Spirit (tongues), **Acts 2: 3** tongues of **fire** sat upon each one.

-Daily appointed time for prayer and Bible reading falling back in love with Scripture.

-Be fervent for God by being "planted" in His house (Church Family) be on a team giving your time, talent and treasures.

-Pray and release the power in our "I Am A Kingdom Builder!" prayer booklet sending out the Word of God.