

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study

Title – The Blessing of God’s Correction
Key Scripture: Proverbs 3:11-12, Job 5:17, Hebrews 12:6

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Proverbs 3:11-12 NIV ¹¹ My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline, and do not resent his rebuke,¹² because the Lord disciplines **those he loves**, as a father the son he delights in.

Job 5:17 Expanded Bible ¹⁷ “The one whom God corrects [reproves] is **happy [blessed]**, so do not hate being corrected by [^Lreject/despise the instruction of] the Almighty [Prov. 3:11–12].

Hebrews 12:6 NIV ⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone **he accepts as his son**.

Correction – *How do you define correction?*

- the action or process of correcting something, a change that rectifies an error or inaccuracy, used to introduce an amended version of something, a change made to something in order to correct or improve it, or the action of making such a change:
- Correction, in the biblical context, refers to the act of rectifying or amending behavior, beliefs, or understanding in accordance with God's truth and righteousness. It is an essential aspect of spiritual growth and maturity, serving as a means by which God guides His people towards holiness and obedience. Correction is often associated with discipline, instruction, and reproof, and is seen as a demonstration of God's love and care for His children.
- In the Bible, correction often refers to God’s guidance and discipline, intended for our growth and spiritual well-being, rather than punishment. It’s about being open to instruction and reproof, as those who heed correction gain understanding and wisdom.

Why do we not welcome God’s correction?

Sources of Correction – *Who should we receive correction from?*

1. **The Word of God:** The Bible itself serves as a primary tool for correction, providing teachings and principles that reveal areas in need of change.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16 NIV:** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness".
 - **Hebrews 4:12 NKJV** For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
2. **The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit convicts individuals of sin and leads them to repentance, which is a form of correction.
 - **John 16:8 NKJV** ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
3. **Conscience:** A person's inner sense of right and wrong can also lead to self-correction.
4. **Counsel of Others:** The guidance and counsel of trusted individuals can help in identifying areas for improvement. **Proverbs 11:14 NKJV**

5. **Human Authorities:** In certain contexts, correction may come from those in positions of authority. **Hebrews 13:17 NKJV**

6. **Divine Discipline:** God may use circumstances to bring about correction and growth.

The Role of the Christian Community: Believers are called to hold one another accountable and to gently restore those who have strayed. **Galatians 6:1** instructs, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him with a spirit of gentleness." This communal aspect of correction fosters an environment of mutual support and growth.

Importance of Receiving Correction: Being open to correction is seen as a sign of humility and a desire for growth (spiritual maturity), while rejecting correction can lead to spiritual stagnation.

- **Proverbs 15:32 NLT** If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.
- **Proverbs 12:1 NIV** Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

Correction as a Sign of Love: God's correction is not a punishment, but rather a demonstration of His love and desire for the well-being of His children.

- **Proverbs 3:12 NLT** ¹² For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Biblical Examples of God's Correction – Can you think of a Biblical example of correction?

Adam & Eve - Genesis 3:16-19

Jonah - Jonah 3:1-2 NIV Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: ² "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Peter - Luke 22:31-32 Amplified Bible "Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has demanded *permission* to sift [all of] you like grain; ³² but I have prayed [especially] for you [Peter], that your faith [and confidence in Me] may not fail; and you, once you have turned back again [to Me], strengthen *and* support your brothers [in the faith]."

Paul - Acts 9:3-6 Amplified Bible As he traveled he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him [displaying the glory and majesty of Christ]; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice [from heaven] saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting *and* oppressing Me?" ⁵ And Saul said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *answered*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, ⁶ now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Key Benefits of God's Correction source – Bible Hub (on-line)

- Means by which God refines and sanctifies His people.
- Through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the community of believers, correction guides individuals towards a deeper relationship with God and a life that reflects His holiness.
- Embracing correction with humility and love leads to spiritual growth and maturity
- Correction aligns believers with God's will and purpose.