

VINEYARD

church

PRAYER & FASTING

DAY 3

Scripture Focus

If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.

– Hebrews 12:8-10 (NIV)

Out of Place

When I was 13 years old, there was a challenge among the boys at my school. One of the "friends" had a fungus that would grow by using water; you put it in a bowl with enough liquid, and after 1 week it doubled. The "child" of this mushroom would be given to another person, almost as if to show that friendship could be multiplied.

That Saturday, obviously, my dad found my little secret under the bed, he immediately asked me to throw it away, which seemed exaggerated. There was a 2nd time, and a 3rd. After he asked me the 4th time, he took the bowl, looked me in the eyes, and said "this doesn't belong here, it's unhealthy and it's going to hurt you", then he went to the bathroom, and threw it away. I considered the fungus to be the deepest sign of friendship between my friends and me. What an injustice! Why did he punish me like this?

Over time I learned that Dad was right, and that I was at great risk by having a slimy fungus under my bed. My dad knew what was good for me.

Challenge

As children, we often have things in our lives that we think don't hurt us; we have them there because they make us feel good, or because they've always been there. But the question we should ask ourselves is it good for us? Am I in danger by having this in my life? God is a Father who loves His children and wants the best for us, and like any good parent loves bringing discipline and order into our lives, removing what can make us sick or take our gaze away from Him.

- What is it about your life that is seemingly good, but out of place?
- In what areas of your life do you feel God is wanting to cleanse?
- Can you see God disciplining you because you are his son/daughter, and he loves you? Or do you see God as a punisher?

Prayer

Father, today I pray that my heart can see that I am your son/daughter, and in your love, you bring discipline by cleaning up my life. Look for those things that are still hidden deep in my heart, and that do not belong in my life as your son/daughter. Help me to know, in my mind and spirit, that you seek my good, that all discipline is good, and thus to partake of your holiness fully.

Camila Garretón

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