

March 4, 2018

KIBC Sunday Worship Service

Message by Pastor Teiichiro Kuroda

Title of the Message : “The Lord’s Discipline of Love for You”

—What is God’s Real Will? —

Text: Hebrews 12:4~11

**12:4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**

**12:5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as children? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,**

**12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his child.”**

**12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?**

**12:8 If you are not disciplined — and everyone undergoes discipline — then you are not legitimate children at all.**

**12:9 Moreover, we have all had parents who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!**

**12:10 Our parents disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.**

**12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**

#### **Introduction**

- Children don’t like to be disciplined. Why? Because, they don’t understand that they need to *be disciplined* to live as a member of society in the future.

- Adults also don't like to be disciplined by their elders. Why? Because they are afraid of their pride being hurt. However, if they don't receive any training, they may get into a dangerous situation.
- We have various experiences in our lives: good and happy things, sad and hard things. We sometimes wonder why such things occur in our lives.
- The author of the Epistle compares Christian lives to a marathon race. Even if they start running in the best condition, they gradually become tired. It is not so easy to keep on running until the end. As we studied last Sunday, runners should focus on the goal so that they don't stumble. It taught us that we should keep fixing our eyes on Jesus, who is unfailing. It is the most important point for marathon runners.
- By the way, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews records as below—

**12:4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**

The Roman Emperor had absolute authority in the days when the Epistle was written. Among Roman emperors, Emperor Nero (64AD) severely persecuted Christians. The receivers of the Epistle were being greatly persecuted.

**10:32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering.**

**10:33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated.**

**10:34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.**

- The Bible and many historical books record that persecution of Christians has continued until even now. However, there is no one who experienced suffering like of the cross that Jesus accepted. Jesus' pain when He was nailed on the cross is far beyond our imagination. On top of that, He became the sinner who was forsaken by God the Father in heaven. We believe that our salvation from God is justified by Christ's death on the cross.

- Today, we would like to study the purposes of living in hardship from the following two points.

### Main Points

#### 1 . To Understand the Will of God the Father in Heaven

**12:5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as children? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,**

**12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his child.”**

- The Scripture above seems to be quoted from the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 8:5 and Proverbs 3:11,12). These verses teach us two important things that we should not forget.

#### 1 ) Do not Make Light of the Lord’s Discipline.

- The author of the Epistle encouraged the receivers of the epistle *not to think that their sufferings were unhappy events, but rather to think of them as God’s discipline of love.*
- Moses’ experience in fleeing from the Egyptian Pharaoh and Joseph’s experience being sold as a slave were God’s precious discipline for them.
- Like them, the events in our lives, families, workplaces and churches do not absolutely happen by accident. When we are disciplined by God we don’t understand its meaning so we feel discouraged and sometimes shed tears. However, God’s precious will is hidden there.
- The term *discipline* is “*paideia*” in the original language and refers to education, training and bringing-up a child for reformation. This is the discipline that God Himself does. Moreover, it is not a lesson that is given at a lecture hall or through the internet. It is an individualized and personal lesson.

How happy we are!

- When look at lives of Moses, Joseph and Paul, and evangelist in the days of the New Testament we understand God’s great plans for them. As God is the One of

Order He guides us in His order. Therefore, we should not make light of His *discipline*.

## 2) Do not Lose Heart.

- God does not want us to lose heart by suffering.

Suffering of discipline are sometimes so painful that it causes us to lose heart. It is impossible for us to manage everything by ourselves. We have limitations. It seems that there were people who lost heart because of hardships 2000 years ago. Therefore, the author encouraged them by the epistle.

- However, the author said that those who became the children of God could overcome the pain of discipline that God allowed them. If they keep fixing their eyes on the Lord Jesus, they experience His presence and they are given His help.
- According to the Hebrew thinking, the Hebrews first speak what they think it the most important. From this point, we understand God's will from Chapter, verses 5 and 6. The key word is, "***the Lord disciplines those he loves (training).***"
- Therefore, we should not forget to '*not make light of the Lord's discipline*' and '*do not lose heart.*'

## 2. We Need Leaders.

- The next important thing is that we need leaders to receive education and training. It is important for us that we are disciplined so we walk a safe way.

### 1) Discipline is Always Given to a Believer.

**12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father?**

- God creates us in His own image and He makes those who follow the will of God the Creator *His children*. We should not forget the important verse above.
- **12:8 If you are not disciplined — and everyone undergoes discipline — then you are not legitimate children at all.**

The ordinary religions try to persuade us to join them by the inviting words, "If you believe, your diseases will be healed and you are set free from various pains

you will become happy.” On the contrary, the Bible teaches that those who believe in Christ will have many problems and suffering for the sake of Christ.

Then, why are Christians disciplined? Because, discipline is God’s education and training according to His will.

## 2) The Purposes of Discipline

**12:10 Our parents disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, which we may share in his holiness.**

- God disciplines us according to His purposes. God wants us to share in His *holiness*. The purpose of the worldly marathon race is to get to the goal as fast as they can. On the other hand, the purpose of Christian lives is to reach goal where God is present.
- God’s nature is *holiness*. As we get nearer to the goal, we easily see it, we are able to see God’s nature as well. We don’t just see it, but we are transformed into God’s image as we get nearer to holiness, God’s nature. Therefore, we need suffering to be transformed into what God desires us to be.
- The Bible records as below—

**1 Peter 1:6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.**

**1:7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

•Discipline in faith brings us nearer to God and transform us into God’s image. This is the purpose of *discipline*.

## 3) God Rewards Us for His Discipline.

**12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**

- We learn a lesson here. God rewards us *a harvest of righteousness and peace* for being disciplined; it produces fruit of peace

- As human beings, we try to avoid suffering. Suffering is painful so we think it may break down our lives. However, suffering doesn't break our Christian lives, moreover, it makes our Christian lives solid. Then, suffering doesn't make us far from God, rather, it gives us strong fellowship with God. We learn through suffering that we can hardly live without God. In this way, suffering leads us to live by following God's will.

**{Illustration}**

- **The parents who are not wise think it good that they should take obstacles away from their children and prepare an easy way for them. They take care of and help them in various ways. However, it is not good for them. As a result, many of their children become weak and selfish**
- **On the other hand, how do the parents who are wise to take care of their children? They put good obstacles before them and help them to overcome difficulties. Those who were suffering only understand those who are suffering. Of course, those who were not suffering don't understand those who are suffering. Those who are able to be kind to those who are suffering. They become to have deep awareness of and sympathy for another people's suffering.**
- At the same time, those who don't try to avoid suffering but willingly receive it become persons on whom God's favor rests. People who follow God's will produce the fruit of the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**5:23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.**

- We learn that a correct parent-child relationship has love. The parent refers to God the Father in Heaven and a child is us. The relationship between us and God is a relationship of love. God willingly discipline (education, training) us to make us transform into His image.
- How about today's message? God's *discipline* derives from His love. A small child doesn't understand his parents' true thoughts. However, they gradually understand them. We can say the same thing in our spiritual life. God's discipline reveals His love.

What do we think God's discipline (education, training) in our Christian lives?

### Conclusion

Title of the Message : "The Lord's Discipline of Love for You"

—What Is God's Real Will? —

- We studied God's *discipline* today. His true will derives from His love. When we have suffering in our lives, we easily complain. However, God allows us to be *disciplined* for our benefit. It's God education, training and upbringing for His children.

We studied the following three points today.

- 1 . *Discipline* is Always Given to a Believer.

**12:8 If you are not disciplined — and everyone undergoes discipline —  
then you are not legitimate children at all.**

- 2 . *Discipline* has purpose.

**12:10 Our parents disciplined us for a little while as they thought best;  
but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.**

- 3 . Discipline rewards us.

**12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on,  
however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who  
have been trained by it.**

God bless you!