

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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The Blessings of Discipline

Hosea 2:15-23

Getting spanked was never fun. In fact, I ran from it once. Only once, as you can imagine. But although it was a miserable experience, I'm glad that my parents disciplined me. Through their loving correction, I learned right from wrong, and I learned to do right and not wrong. Surprisingly, as I look back, I realize that though I hated it at the time, discipline was a blessing.

God disciplines his children, too; he disciplined Israel and he disciplines believers. When God disciplines, it is always for our good. God's discipline is intentional; he plans to bring about a number of benefits in our lives.

Endure God's discipline, because he had a lot of good in store!

I. God's discipline brings purity (vv 16-17).

Israel had confused God with the pagan religion around them. God used the coming calamity to undo that confusion once and for all, and he does the same for us.

II. God's discipline brings peace (v 18).

A. Peace with creation.

B. Peace with fellow man.

III. God's discipline brings intimacy (vv 19-20).

A. God enters a relationship with his people.

1. God establishes the relationship with eagerness.
2. God establishes the relationship with righteousness.
3. God establishes the relationship with justice.
4. God establishes the relationship with steadfast love.
5. God establishes the relationship with mercy.
6. God establishes the relationship with faithfulness.

B. God's people enter the relationship with him.

IV. God's discipline brings prosperity (vv 21-22).

God had promised blessings for Israel when they obeyed (Deuteronomy 28:12) and drought when they didn't (Deuteronomy 28:23-24). God plans on blessing Israel, and us, materially one day beyond our wildest dreams.

V. God's discipline brings hope (vv 22-23).

All three of the terrifying names given to Israel in chapter one are here reversed here again (see 2:1). God pursues those who do not pursue him and loves to make sinners his children (Romans 9:25-26, 1 Peter 2:10).