

# Transforming

## Educating . . .

"Have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children?"

'My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline,  
but don't be crushed by it either.

It's the child he loves that he disciplines;  
the child he embraces, he also corrects.

- God is *educating* you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment;

## Training . . .

- it is *training*, the normal experience of children.
- Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for *training* and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's *training* so we can truly *live*?

## What's Best?

While we were children, our parents did what *seemed best* to them.

- But God is doing *what is best* for us, training us to *live God's holy best*. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like its going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.
- So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet!
- Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle.

## Helping Each Other

- Help each other out. And run for it!
- Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God.
- Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity.
- Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.
- Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears."

Hebrews 12:5-17

The Message

## GOD'S MINISTRY TO US:

- ❖ EDUCATING = must be seen as corrective and instructive. It is not punishment. Educating is preparation for life! It is done in love and is proof of love.
  
- ❖ TRAINING = is an indication of being a member of God's world-wide family. Training adds dimension to life and enhances it for our benefit.
  
- ❖ WHAT'S BEST? = Parents consistently strive to do the best for their children. Sometimes that may be more external and financial than it is internal and spiritual !  
Only God himself knows what is ultimately best.  
Parents then, look to God for guidance in knowing what is eternally best.
  
- ❖ HELPING EACH OTHER = There are a lot of us on this planet. Life works best if we see ourselves as a part of the entire earth, not just our little corner of it. Then we can help each other with life. I believe that our greatest help to others is spiritual. Who is God?  
Why does He allow bad things to happen? How can I know Him on a personal level?