

Incentive to Obey God's Word



"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word." Psalm 119:67

Number 24 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

I can think of several times in my Christian life when I gave in to the desires of my flesh and started to go astray from the narrow path. I am so grateful for the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the love of the Lord to afflict and chastise me. I am also grateful that He never allowed me to stray very far. The Lord's love in afflicting me was a *good incentive to obey the Bible!* A true believer has no peace or joy when he sins. Psalm 119:71 reads, *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."*

I do not know anyone who likes to be around spoiled, rebellious, self-willed, undisciplined children. What is even worse is that after many years of getting their own way by making life miserable for everyone around them, they grow up to be spoiled, rebellious, self-willed, undisciplined adults. It is not surprising that the divorce rate is so high when everyone wants his own way. Personally, I no longer want my own way. I want my life to glorify Jesus Christ. I see the Lord afflicting me as being good for me. Hebrews 12:5-6 reads, *"And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.'"*

Hebrews 12:11 reads, *"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been*

trained by it." While none of us like to be around spoiled, undisciplined children, we know the joy of being with well-behaved ones. I am a child of God. I want Him to discipline me. I do not want to bring Him shame and grief. I want Him to train me. Psalm 119:75 reads, *"I know, O Lord, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me."*

Beloved, I do not know how you feel about the times that the Lord is afflicting you, but I truly see it as His love and faithfulness towards me! I see it as HIS AMAZING GRACE in not allowing me to go astray. Proverbs 3:11-12 reads, *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights."* Revelation 3:19 reads, *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."*

Over and over the Lord speaks of relationship. He is speaking to His children. He tells us He loves us. His correction, discipline, and affliction are for our good. I thank Him for not allowing me to be rebellious and self-willed. I destroyed a lot of lives when I used to live that way. I have no peace or joy now when I live to please myself. How about you? Are you a true child of God? Is His chastising making you a joy to His heart? Are you quick to obey and respond to His love?

— Janice McBride

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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