

Sunday, March 18, 2012

God's Correction
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Pastor received a word from the Lord and in it the Lord told him that He was bringing correction to the church. We are the church.

You can hear a word given but when it comes directly to you it is that much more real. Pastor endeavored to process it and he wasn't going to minister along that line at all and was going to pick up where he left off last week but felt he needed to share about the word he received. He was reminded of a scripture.

The scripture is set after Paul had the supernatural turn around in his life. He was one that was very zealous in what he did. When he was persecuting Christians it was unto death and when he had his turn around he used the same zeal to do the work of God.

Acts 9:31 (NLT)

³¹ The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.

Acts 9:31 (KJV)

³¹ Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

The word fear is taken from the root word that we know as a phobia. If you have a phobia it is with you no matter where you go. To balance with the grace and mercy of God there needs to be a holy reverential fear of God that it is with us no matter where we are at and wherever we go. We are aware of the presence of God. If we are really aware of His presence it will affect our outward behavior. If we are aware of God's presence it's going to affect us. We will change our behavior according.

When God brings correction to the church God never administers correction or discipline with the intent to destroy. Church people have believed that if God is going to bring correction he is going to bring destruction to us. Beat us down to nothing but that isn't God. God brings discipline and/or correction for the purpose of growing us up and maturing us.

As when a carpenter uses sandpaper to bring out the beauty in the grain of the wood, that is why God brings discipline and correction to the church, to bring the beauty and the gifts out, whether it's an individual to bring them out so they can be a blessing to the body of Christ. God can keep pouring out His blessings so we can be partakers of his holiness.

Hebrews chapter 12 talks about God's discipline and correction. The bible teaches us we God is our father and God is our children and the bible also says if we are his children He has a right to bring discipline or correction to us.

Hebrews 12:5 (AMP)

⁵And have you [completely] forgotten the divine word of appeal and encouragement in which you are reasoned with and addressed as sons? My son, do not think lightly or scorn to submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage and give up and faint when you are reprovved or corrected by Him;

A lot of us as Christian do, we run from God's correction or discipline. We as adults will run because we are proud on the inside so we will not submit. We are not to give up or quit.

Hebrews 12:6 (AMP)

⁶For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His heart and cherishes.

If we are not being corrected by the Lord he must not love us. He corrects because he cares and loves us. Training is a process. It is a continual process throughout our lives. We are continually being trained by God. God is not going to discipline us out of anger but out of love.

Hebrews 12:7 (AMP)

⁷You must submit to and endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train and correct and discipline?

The stubborn do not submit easily. Some of us have to get through our little mad spells in order that we can be trained and taught anything. We become submissive to the pressure of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:5-8 (AMP)

⁵Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

⁶Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [^apossessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not [^bthink this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped ^cor retained,

⁷But stripped Himself [of all privileges and ^drightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.

⁸And after He had appeared in human form, He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

Jesus is the example in the above scriptures and he submitted to the plan and will of God.

Jesus wants extreme obedience in us. Jesus wants us to be obedient when the pressure is on not to be obedient. Jesus was obedient to the Father's plan. It looked like it was all over for him but God raised him from the dead.

Hebrews 12:8-10 (AMP)

⁸Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all].

⁹Moreover, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we yielded [to them] and respected [them for training us]. Shall we not much more cheerfully submit to the Father of spirits and so [truly] live?

¹⁰For [our earthly fathers] disciplined us for only a short period of time and chastised us as seemed proper and good to them; but He disciplines us for our certain good, that we may become sharers in His own holiness.

God is bringing discipline and correction to us more so in different seasons than others. When we submit to the Father God in the area of discipline and correction truly the life of God is more manifest in us outwardly and truly we become a partaker in a greater measure in God's goodness and life. When we run from that we limit ourselves from being a partaker to the measure that God's plan is for us. God doesn't discipline to destroy but for our good. Holiness is the conduct we have in the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13 (AMP)

¹³[The Father] has delivered and ^[a]drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son ^[b]of His love,

In this kingdom of Jesus holiness is the conduct we put on. Holiness is not a set of rules but a condition of our heart. It will emanate the more we grow and submit to His discipline.

Hebrews 12:11-12

Amplified Bible (AMP)

¹¹For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness--in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God].

¹²So then, brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees,

In the beginning we resist discipline/correction but after the Lord continues training on us we will know it's a little painful now but after a while you will miss the discipline and training. We must see and know the end result. After we have been trained by God we yield to the discipline/correction/training because we know the outcome is going to be good and we know He loves us and is not out to destroy us.

Father we submit to your plan and purpose in Jesus name.

Proverbs 16:3 (AMP)

³Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.