

THE ROUTE TO HOLINESS

As believers, God is our Father, and He is a very responsible Father. According to Hebrews 12, He disciplines all of His children to build holiness into their lives. Discipline is a vital part of learning practical holiness.

Hebrews 12:7–8, 10 (NKJV)

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

Our heavenly Father is a perfect Father. He always gets it just right. His discipline is always perfectly fitted for our profit. It's always for our ultimate good. It's never counterproductive (cf. Rom. 8:28). And, it always has a definite purpose.

God's discipline is always to the end that we "***may be partakers of His holiness***". This is always the end goal of God's disciplinary action in our lives. He is building His holiness into us, and that can involve a painful process (cf. 1 Pet. 1:15-16).

All those who are saved have the Holy Spirit Who brings holy desires into the heart. All who are saved experience God's correction to bring about holiness. These are realities for every true believer. So much so that Hebrews 12:14 goes on to say that without holiness, no one will see the Lord. All believers have POSITIONAL holiness, and God is at work to build PRACTICAL holiness into our lives. There is no exception.

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

We have been perfected forever by the sacrifice of Christ. That is a forever established reality for every believer. It is settled! That is POSITIONAL sanctification.

However, in practice, we are in process – we are being sanctified. Little by little we are being conformed to the image of Christ. It is a lifelong project.

Positionally, we are PERFECTLY holy. Practically we are becoming more and more holy. Thus, holiness defines the true believer both positionally and practically.

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: