

FORMATIONAL DISCIPLINE

WEEK SIX THE DISCIPLINE OF ADVERSITY

Recall a time when you faced hardship. What opportunities did God provide in that time to shape your character?

Encouraged to Endure
Hebrews 12:5-9

Ecclesiastes 7:14; Job 2:10; Isaiah 45:7-10; Lamentations 3:31-33

“[D]iscipline is not the mark of a harsh father, but rather of a father who is deeply concerned for the welfare and maturity of his children. Consequently, we should realize that God’s discipline, which comes to us in the form of adversity or hardship, is an indication of His loving care, not a token of His disfavor.”

Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*

Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4

“The only way Christlike character is developed is in the crucible of real-life experience.”

Bridges

An Eternal Glory
Hebrews 12:10-11; Romans 8:18, 28-29; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. What is your honest response to the thought of God bringing hardship into your life? Does it make you uncomfortable or are you content with it? How does remembering that grace and love motivate God's discipline shape your response?

2. In considering the glory to be revealed in us (Rom 8:18), what do you look forward to the most? How does it encourage you to know that God is working to renew that in you day by day (2 Cor 4:16) even now?

3. How has this study impacted your perception or understanding of discipline? How has it affected your response to God's call for discipline in your own life?

What have you experienced as you have sought God's direction on the area of life He has called you to be more disciplined? How will you continue to implement the things you've learned in this study to pursue growth in this area?