

## “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

November 10, 2019

### Part 2

**Scripture Text: Psalms 118: 17-**

**18 Hebrews 12:11-13 NKJV. 17 I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD. 18 The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.”**

**VERSE 17** *I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.* When you enter the Valley of the Shadow of Death, it's time to have a talk with your soul.

My wife reminded before I was being wheeled into the operating room to speak to my soul, “**I shall not die, but live, And declare the works of the LORD.**” I affirmed it to the physicians and blessed them as I entered the operating room and was placed on the operating table. **Every Fiber of My Being** was tested at death's door before, during and after surgery. I can't recall all of the

events with my heart only working at 5 per cent but my wife remembers many of them.

**VERSE 18** *The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death.”*

Deuteronomy 32:10: "He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye".

In spite of David's sin, God cherished him and referred to him as the Apple of His Eye. When God favors you, there is nothing your adversary can do to you that doesn't bring Glory to God.

**Hebrews 12: 6-8 NKJV 6.** *For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.* {**What is Chastening?**} **Chastening in this context is to be disciplined by God.** **Would you rather be disciplined by someone who had no love for you or your future?**

**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. *Are you going through a challenging season in your life?* Learn to rest in the Lord because *there is nothing you can do to manipulate the will of God! Everything that has happened and will happen has a purpose far beyond your understanding.***

We are not victims because everything pertaining to this life and the life to come has been dealt with by Jesus Christ. He died for our sins and He was buried in a borrowed grave. He rose from the grave to bind the spirit of the fear of death and give eternal life to all who believe in Him. He sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to be His witnesses upon the earth.

As you are being **chastened**, it is not the time to play the victim but to **herald victory** in Jesus who has gone before you.

Does Jesus have any witnesses here?  
Does He deserve your thanks and sacrifice of praise with the fruit of your lips? This is not the time in our history to hold back the Praise that is due Him! This may sound foreign to you but the deeper your love is for someone the more you bless and praise them.

**Scripture Text: Hebrews 12:11-13**  
**NKJV. 11.** *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. 12.* *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, 13.* *and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*

**VERSE 11.** *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*** I recall the days of my adolescence when I was driven by foolish thoughts and actions that led to being

disciplined. My uncle would disciple my cousin and me with his razor strap. It was ugly and my cry each time was that I wouldn't do it again. It wasn't until I had reached adulthood that I told him I appreciated the beatings. His response was...You needed them!

I had brothers who had gone to reform school, jail and prison for their bad behavior. My uncle saw me going in a direction that could have affected my life and future. He knew that calling a timeout wouldn't be as effective as an old fashion butt whipping! Spare the rod (discipline) you spoil the child. We live in an age of spoiled children and adults who recoil from being disciplined for their own good.

**VERSE 12.** *Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,*

The Lord loves us and this is not a time in our lives to walk in our feelings but in confidence. God is providing the discipline needed to be conformed into His image. The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23 is love, joy, peace,

longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.) is best manifested under pressure!

**VERSE 13.** *and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.*

NLT version, "Mark out a straight path for your feet. Then those who follow you, though they are weak and lame, will not stumble and fall but will become strong."

Following the Lord has great dividends!

### **APPLICATIONS:**

Only God knows the exact measurement of disciple you need to be conformed to His Image.

Always receive it with a grateful heart because it comes from a Loving Father.