

# Spiritual Procrastination

**Hebrews 12:11** [NRSV] *“Now discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time ...”*

**Perhaps many of us would term this remark of Paul as one of the greatest understatements in the Christian Bible.**

**But Paul underscores the importance of Godly discipline ...** *“Later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

Let us think about this inspired statement given by God through His apostle Paul.

As mortal human beings we do not like pain. As an 80+ year old man who has acute arthritis that limits my mobility, I read longingly the promise made by the Eternal Creator God of a future that will involve *“no more pain,”* [Revelation 21:4].

One psychiatrist, in a rare moment of true insight, noted that humanity’s progress is often immobilised by the desire to be comfortable.

When pain comes, we immediately react to reduce it, whether physically or mentally.

**But consider this, the trials we endure after surrendering our wills to the Eternal Creator God have a different portent than those suffered by the yet unconverted.**

The Eternal Creator God is fashioning His own divine righteous character within us, the goal He has for all humanity eventually in a time that He chooses.

**Genesis 1:26-27** [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

The Hebrew word translated *“image”* is *“tselem”* meaning resemblance, outward form, shadow. But the Hebrew word translated *“likeness”* is completely different, *“demûwth”* meaning manner, attributes that is character, that can only be formed over a period of time spent in the presence of the person whose character we wish to reflect. **Hence the Eternal Creator God has given us a short period of time in which to form the righteous character that Paul is speaking of in Hebrews.**

**I’m sure that God prefers that we self-correct all we see in His Word, the Christian Bible, that is not in harmony with His character.**

**But let us be honest, how often have you or I after learning more how our ways differ from God’s been a little slow to apply these principles in our lives?**

**Perhaps we had good intentions?** Perhaps we did not even realise as we read about the attitude God [Jesus Christ] had to a situation, how much we would have differed in our reaction to the same situation.

**We were practicing spiritual procrastination.**

**No time to procrastinate –**

Even as you read this article the Eternal Creator God is busy cleaning up all true Christians, making us ready to become the very bride of Jesus Christ to work in harmony with Him at His Second Coming to bring salvation eventually to all humans to have a chance to accept.

[Please download and study our article on this website 'What On Earth Is God Doing?' listed under 'Kingdom Of God' subject main title.]

**Revelation 19:7-8** [New King James] *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.”*

**Note that the bride, all true Christians, “has made herself ready.”**

**For us to prepare for this event the Eternal Creator God uses trials in our lives.**

**James 1:2-4** [New King James] *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

**The only way we can count these painful trials as periods of joy is when we see what the Creator God will accomplish through them.**

If we try to resist and wriggle out of God’s correction and discipline, you will be missing the important message that James, the physical brother of Jesus Christ, is bringing to us.

**This does not mean we should ask for trials, our human nature prompted by Satan will bring many our way.**

**Satan wants to use trials to destroy us spiritually, [1 Peter 5:8] the Eternal Creator God uses the same trials to cause us to mature spiritually if we draw close to Him.**

**1 Peter 5:6-10** [New King James] *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”*

**Appreciate how the Eternal Creator God of this whole universe is indeed personally working with you.**

If you are under the pressure of a trial now, use your prayer and study time to meditate on **Hebrews 12:1-16**.

**Acts 14:22** [New King James] *“strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”*

**Remember it is through rightly using the trials that come on us that we will be part of the created Family of God, the Kingdom of God, that is a family of individual children with one Spiritual Father.**

**1 Peter 1:6-9** [New King James] *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

**The trials that the Eternal Creator God will bring us through are beyond value because the end product is eternal life with Him in ever closer relationship.**

**John 17:3** [New King James] *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

This is the end goal of all trials used in the way that God intended.

**1 John 5:11** [New King James] *“And this is the testimony: **that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.**”*

**We can taste this relationship even now in this human life that is full of pain and trials.**