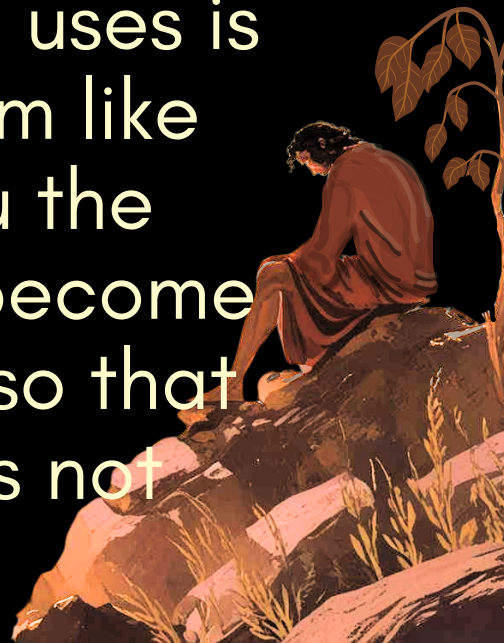


Isaiah 1:25 ESV

25 I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy.

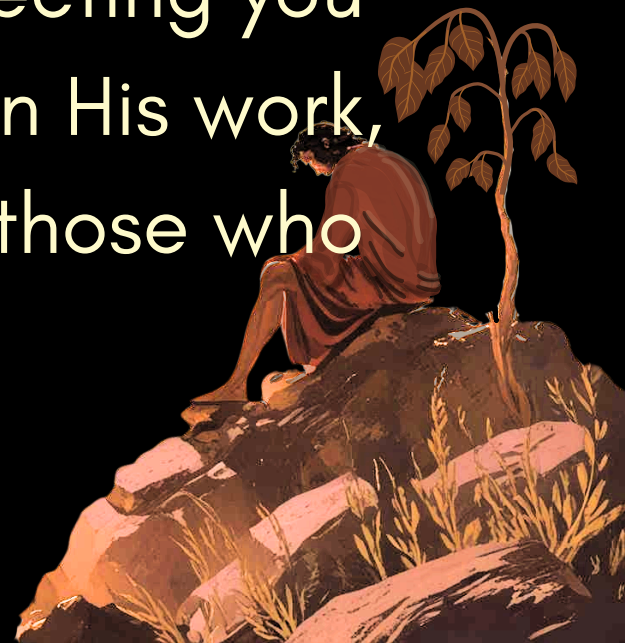
Isaiah records God's words to Judah as they have turned from God and have become defiled. God chooses to discipline them and restore them rather than destroy them. The imagery that God uses to describe His refining work is taken from the process of refining metals. Heat and chemicals are used to remove impurities (dross and alloy). This is an intense and timely process with the intent of creating a refined metal that is valuable in both use and preciousness. The language God uses is assertive and determined. As your God works on you, it will seem like angry work. God uses the necessary effort to remove from you the things that are detrimental to your spiritual life so that you may become pure and useful to God. Ask God to shape your heart and mind so that you would cherish God's work in you to remove anything that is not pleasing to Him. God corrects those who belong to Him!



Proverbs 3:11-12 ESV

11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof,
12 for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom
he delights.

Solomon's wise words temper our emotions and selfish reactions so that we can see what God is doing. For God's people, His discipline and correction are evidence of His great love. He isn't rejecting you for your sin and rejection of Him, but He is revealing your sin and correcting you so that you have a good conscience, are able to participate in His work, and be a son or daughter who brings God joy. God corrects those who are His!



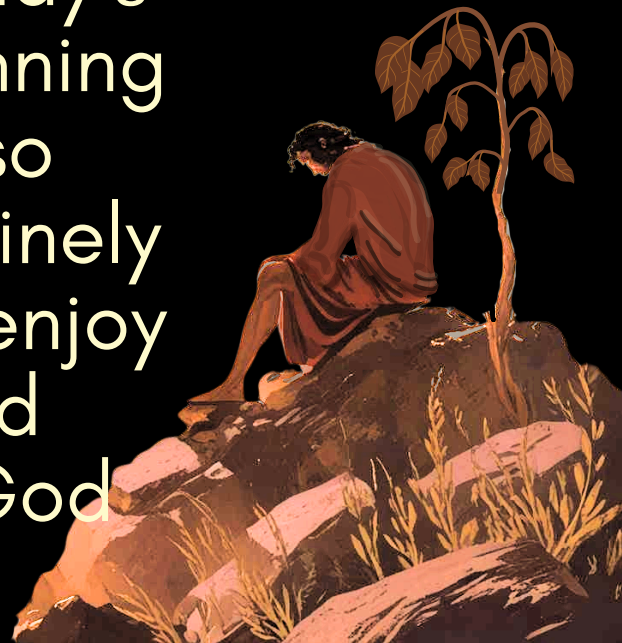
Hebrews 12:4-7 ESV

4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reprovved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

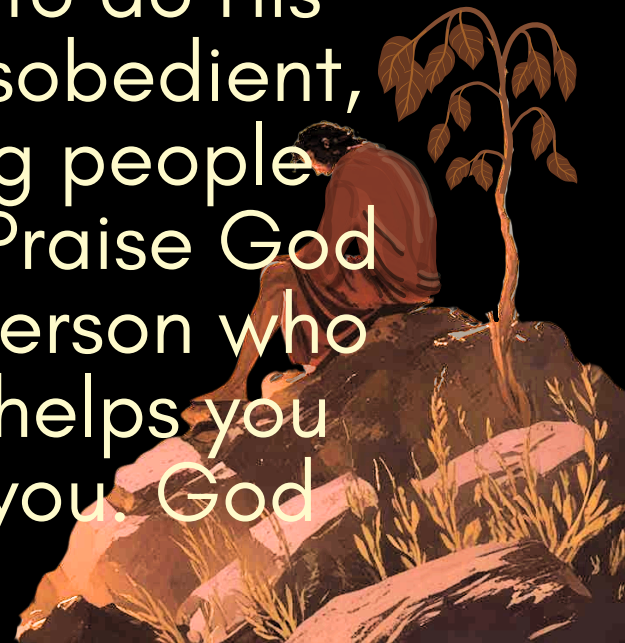
7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? The Hebrew author takes the passage from Proverbs 3 (yesterday's reading) and encourages you to continue struggling against sinning and reminding you that as God disciplines you, He is doing so because you are His son or daughter. A good Father who genuinely loves His child will discipline and correct so that they can fully enjoy His presence and work. As God corrects you, embrace it and endure it. Praise God! You are His, He loves you deeply, and God corrects His people!



Titus 1:15-16 ESV

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.
16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Paul writes that there is a difference between God's people and those who do not belong to Him. God's sons and daughters know Him, desire to do the things He's called and equipped them to do, and they do those things. The unbelieving people do not desire God nor to do His work. Paul writes that unbelieving people "are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work." That is strong language concerning people who claim to know God but deny him by their disobedience. Praise God that when you, who believes in Jesus by faith, behave like a person who doesn't believe, God mercifully corrects you. Pray that God helps you know Him and affirm that relationship by His works through you. God corrects His people!



Deuteronomy 8:5–6 ESV

5 Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. 6 So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

The proof that you belong to God and are His son or daughter is found in your actions. You do not act a certain way so that you can become a son or daughter, but being a child of God will cause you to keep His commandments, walk in His ways, and worship Him. Just as a good father disciplines his children for their benefit, your Heavenly Father is helping you and loves you as His child. Know in your heart that God corrects you as His child!

