Doctrine OF Reproof

GOD'S LOVING DISCIPLINE

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Hebrews 12:6-9

"For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?"



- INTRODUCTION The Wood Shed Experience

In the 60s and 70s, there was a saying that became quite common: "God took me to the wood shed." This phrase was often used to describe a time when someone felt the heavy hand of God's discipline in their life. The wood shed represents a place of correction—a place where one is taken aside, away from the public eye, to receive necessary reproof and instruction.

Today, we delve into the doctrine of reproof—a biblical principle that reflects God's love and care for His children. Reproof is not just about correction; it is about growth, maturity, and solidifying our identity as sons and daughters of God. In the Apostolic Pentecostal faith, accepting reproof from God or His appointed leaders is a sign of true spiritual sonship and daughtership.

The Purpose of Reproof

The word "reproof" in the Bible comes from the Hebrew word "תַּחַכּוֹת" (tôkhaḥat), which means rebuke, correction, or argument. In English, it signifies an expression of disapproval or a correction intended to bring about positive change. Reproof in the Bible serves several purposes:

- 1. Correction and Instruction: Proverbs 6:23 says, "For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life." God's reproof provides guidance, showing us the right path.
- 2. Confirmation of Sonship: Hebrews 12:6-7 reminds us that God's discipline is a sign of His love and our legitimate status as His children. A lack of discipline would indicate that we are not truly His.
- 3. Prevention of Destruction: Proverbs 29:1 warns, "He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing." God's reproof is designed to steer us away from paths that lead to ruin.
- 4. Promotion of Wisdom: Proverbs 15:31 states, "The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise." Accepting reproof leads to wisdom and understanding, making us more like Christ.

God Taking Israel to the Wood Shed

Throughout the Old Testament, we see instances where God "took Israel to the wood shed"—where He disciplined His people to bring them back into alignment with His will.

- 1. The Wilderness Wanderings (Numbers 14): After Israel's lack of faith at Kadesh Barnea, God condemned that generation to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. This period was a time of correction, teaching them dependence on God.
- 2. The Babylonian Exile (Jeremiah 25:8-11): Due to their persistent idolatry and disobedience, God allowed Babylon to conquer Judah and carry its people into exile. This was a severe form of reproof, intended to purify the nation and restore true worship.
- 3. The Plagues and Hardships in Egypt (Exodus 7-12): Before the Exodus, Israel experienced oppression and hardship under Pharaoh. These events were not just about delivering Israel but also about reproving them for their lack of trust and teaching them about God's power.

In each of these instances, God's reproof was not just about punishment but about restoration, teaching, and preparing His people for a greater purpose.

Reproof in Proverbs

A PATH TO WISDOM

Here is a detailed list of the scriptures in Proverbs that deal with the word "reproof," including the Hebrew word תַחַכוּת (tôkhaḥat) and its meaning:

- 1. Proverbs 1:23 תַּחְכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you."
 - Meaning: Reproof leads to divine revelation and wisdom.
- 2. Proverbs 1:25 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof."
 - Meaning: Ignoring reproof brings calamity and distress.
- 3. Proverbs 1:30 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "They would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof."
 - Meaning: Despising reproof is a rejection of God's wisdom and guidance.
- 4. Proverbs 3:11 תַּחְכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, or be weary of his reproof."
 - Meaning: Reproof is a sign of God's love and should not be despised.
- 5. Proverbs 5:12 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "And you say, 'How I hated discipline, and my heart despised reproof!"

- Meaning: Rejecting reproof leads to regret and sorrow.
- 6. Proverbs 6:23 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life."
 - Meaning: Reproof is a guiding light on the path to life.
- 7. Proverbs 9:8 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you."
 - Meaning: Wise people value and embrace reproof.
- 8. Proverbs 10:17 תַחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray."
 - Meaning: Heeding reproof preserves life and prevents leading others into error.
- 9. Proverbs 12:1 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid."
- Meaning: Loving reproof is associated with the love of knowledge.
- 10. Proverbs 13:18 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored."
 - Meaning: Heeding reproof brings honor, while ignoring it leads to disgrace.
- 11. Proverbs 15:5 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent."
 - Meaning: Reproof is essential for prudence and wisdom.
- 12. Proverbs 15:10 תַחְכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "There is severe discipline for

him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die."

- Meaning: Hating reproof leads to spiritual and sometimes physical death.
- 13. Proverbs 15:31 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "The ear that listens to lifegiving reproof will dwell among the wise."
 - Meaning: Listening to reproof is life-giving and places one among the wise.
- 14. Proverbs 15:32 תַּחַכּוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence."
 - Meaning: Ignoring reproof is self-destructive, while accepting it brings intelligence.
- 15. Proverbs 17:10 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool."
 - Meaning: Reproof is more effective on a wise person than punishment on a fool.
- 16. Proverbs 19:25 תַּחַכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge."
 - Meaning: Reproof is a tool for learning and gaining knowledge.
- 17. Proverbs 19:27 תַּחְכוֹת (tôkhaḥat): "Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge."
 - Meaning: Rejecting reproof leads to straying from wisdom.

God Taking Israel to the Wood Shed

(CONTINUED)

In each of these instances, God's reproof was not just about punishment but about restoration. The purpose was to bring His people back into alignment with His will, purifying and preparing them for His greater purposes. God's reproof, whether through hardship or direct rebuke, was a demonstration of His unwavering commitment to the covenant He made with Israel.

The Role of Apostolic Pentecostal Fivefold ministry and the Pastor in the local Apostolic Pentecostal Church Administering Reproof and Rebuke

As Apostolic Pentecostal ministers and elders, we are entrusted with the spiritual oversight of the church. This role requires us to administer reproof when necessary, following the example set by The Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Reproof is not an option—it is a mandate for the health and holiness of the Apostolic Pentecostal church. Here are some key points to consider:

1. No Coddling or Babying of Rebellion: Sin and rebellion must be dealt with firmly. Leaven—symbolic of sin—if left unchecked, will spread and corrupt the entire body. As Paul admonished in 1 Corinthians 5:6-7, "Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened."

- Application: In our role as spiritual fathers, we cannot afford to coddle or mother rebellion within the church. While we are to be compassionate, we must also be firm in addressing sin, ensuring that it is uprooted before it can spread and cause greater harm.
- 2. Fathering the Church, Not Mothering It: The church needs fathers—leaders who will provide strong, loving guidance and correction. While nurturing is important, the father's role in the biblical sense involves discipline, instruction, and setting boundaries.
- Ephesians 6:4 instructs fathers to "bring [their children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." This applies to spiritual leaders as well, who are called to discipline and instruct the church in the ways of righteousness.
- Proverbs 19:18 states, "Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death." Just as a father disciplines his child with the hope of guiding them into maturity, so too must church leaders discipline the congregation with the hope of spiritual growth and maturity.
- 3. Reproof is a Proof of Sonship: Hebrews 12:8 makes it clear that reproof and chastening are proofs of legitimate sonship. If a believer cannot endure reproof, they are likened to an illegitimate child—not truly belonging to the family of God. Acts 2:38 is the new birth of the water and spirit. This is the beginning of your journey as a son or daughter and is our initiation into the kingdom of God. It is essential to Salvation, he that endures to the end will be saved. So, growing into sonship is dependent upon whether or not you can take correction.

- Application: In the Apostolic Pentecostal Doctrine, the ability to receive reproof from the Lord, His appointed Fivefold ministers or Elders is seen as evidence of one's spiritual sonship or daughtership. Those who resist reproof or reject correction demonstrate a heart that is not fully submitted to God's authority. (Heb. 13:7-17; Heb. 5:7)

Learning Through Reproof THE PROCESS OF EXPERIENCE,

PAIN, & GROWTH

God's method of teaching often involves reproof, which brings experience and, at times, pain. However, this process is necessary for growth. Here's why:

- 1. Experience and Wisdom: Proverbs 12:1 teaches that "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid." Experience gained through reproof is invaluable. It sharpens our discernment, deepens our understanding, and equips us to walk in wisdom.
- 2. Pain as a Catalyst for Growth: Proverbs 20:30 says, "Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart." Painful experiences of reproof often lead to a deeper purification of the soul. It is through enduring and learning from these moments that believers are refined and made more like Christ.
- 3. Reproof Leading to Life: Proverbs 6:23 states, "For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life." Reproof is not meant to destroy but to give life—to steer us away from destruction and lead us toward the abundant life that God has for us.

- CONCLUSION -

Embracing God's Discipline

As we conclude, let us remember that God's discipline is a reflection of His love. Just as He corrected Israel, He corrects us today. As Fivefold Ministry a Pastor over a local Apostolic Pentecostal Church , we must be willing to administer reproof in love, guiding the church with the firmness of a father who desires the best for his children. Let us embrace the reproof of the Lord, knowing that it is shaping us into the image of Christ, preparing us for greater things in His kingdom.

Hebrews 12:11 reminds us, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." May we all be trained by God's reproof, growing in righteousness and peace as we walk faithfully in His ways.

This book provides an in-depth exploration of the doctrine of reproof, drawing from biblical principles, Apostolic Pentecostal doctrine, and practical applications for the church and fivefold ministry.

About Elder Keith Joel Walker

In 1980 at the age of thirteen, I repented of my sins and was later filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues in my bedroom on 100 W. Holland in Clovis, California. Soon after, I began to see the revelation that Jesus was the God of the Old and the New Testament and that water baptism was administered in Jesus Name. However, at age fifteen, I was credentialed with the Pentecostal Church of God, a Trinitarian-Pentecostal organization.

At the time, I would approach Pastor Aaron Wilson and his Associate Pastor about John 1:1-14 and John 14:7-9, where Jesus said "if you've seen me, you've seen the father" as well as Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:1-6 concerning Jesus Name baptism, but they would brush it off.

Several years later, in 1987, I visited a service at Truth Tabernacle in Fresno under Elder Vaughn Morton. In that service, Brother Keith Clark preached. Elder Vaughn Morton exhorted about the Oneness of God and the essentiality of being baptized in Jesus Name. That day, I saw the revelation, but I ran from it. The next day, a friend and I went to the Spanish Assemblies of God on Forth and Washington in Fresno. We told them that we received the revelation of Jesus Name baptism, according to Acts 2:38 and wanted to use their baptistry. Pastor Tommy Salazar smiled and said that he knew about baptism in Jesus Name and that his brother was affiliated with the Apostolic Assemblies denomination. He gave us his approval and said, "fill up the baptistry." So that afternoon, my friend baptized me in Jesus name and I baptized him as well.

From 1988-1992, my wife and I pastored in Chowchilla. During this time, God would give me dreams about Elder Vaughn Morton baptizing people in Jesus Name. There were many mornings that I would wake up and see 2:38 on the clock as the Lord began to deal with me about the truth.

In 1993, my wife, Donna and I felt the call of God to start World Harvest Pentecostal Church in Fresno. The Lord continued to reveal the truth to me over the years. Between 1998-2007, I began to rebaptize those in my church in Jesus Name. I also taught the Oneness of God and holiness to my congregation and left the Assemblies of God, the Trinitarian-Pentecostal denomination I was affiliated with during that time.

In 2008, Elder Vaughn Morton came to visit me at World Harvest Pentecostal Church. He told me that he heard the sermons I was preaching on the new birth, according to Acts 2:38 and the Oneness of God. That afternoon, we went to Truth Tabernacle, where Elder Morton pastored and I asked him to rebaptize me in Jesus Name. He asked me to preach at his Sunday night service and wanted me to tell my testimony on how I came into the full revelation of the truth according to Acts 2:38, on the new birth and Deuteronomy 6:4, on the Oneness of God.

Since August 15, 1993, my wife and I have been pastoring in Fresno for 27 years. We have had the privilege of preaching the gospel in ten different nations. Over the years, we have seen many rebaptized, baptized in Jesus Name and filled with the Holy Ghost. We have also had the privilege of seeing many come to the Revelation of the Oneness at World Harvest Pentecostal Church and around the world.

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