

December 15

TODAY'S BIBLE STUDY & MEDITATION

KEY IDEAS: Do I recognize that God may use hardship to expose weakness and then to strengthen me? Do I see myself as God sees me, as one whom He corrects and strengthens with difficulties and adversity? Have I learned to praise God no matter the circumstance?

1 **God is the source of mercy** — *2 John 1:3* *Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

Am I inclined to see God as harsh and merciless? If so, why?

What are some examples of God's mercy for which I can praise Him?

2 **I am shaped and molded by the discipline of my Father** — *Hebrews 12:7* *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

When faced with adversity do I ever think that the Lord is treating me unfairly?

Why does Satan want me to resist and bristle at correction?

3 **I am to seek to be obedient to God's will (just as the children of Israel were to obey Lord's commands)** — *Deuteronomy 8:5* *Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. 6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.*

Why is it confusing to assume that God chastens me only when I disobey?

In times of trouble, what role can praise play in declaring that I trust the Lord?

Spirit of Glory, how do you want to apply these verses in my life today?

OPTIONAL BIBLE READINGS

Morning: Revelation 6

Evening: Amos 1, 2, 3