

The Value of God's Rebuke Part 4

Rebuke is the language of God to deal with human's sin, shortcomings, mistakes and stubbornness. Let us continue through the Scripture and learn how we can use this very effective language of God:

In the previous messages we have learned the following Words about rebuke: **1. Shamar. 2. Yakach. 3. Gaar. 4. Towkechah. 5. G@arah, 6. Epitimao, 7. Riyb:**

8. Paideia: *"5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. 12 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; 13 And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."* (Hebrews 12:5-13 KJV)

The Greek word for 'chastening', or 'chastisement', in **Hebrews 12:5-13** is 'Paideia', and it means the followings:

A. The whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals of the children. For this purpose we need to employ commands, admonitions, reproof and punishment to train up children. It also includes the training and care of the body as in controlling body weight, eating habits, sleeping time and hours. We can read about that, Paul instructions to the Ephesians, *"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4 KJV) Nurture in this verse is the Word used for Paideia. Many they misunderstand this verse and they will say that parents should not apply discipline on their children. But when discipline is absent, or when one of the parents is not disciplinary then the children are prone and provoked to do evil. Nurturing children means to discipline them so they will be moving and growing in the way that they should grow away from sin and worldliness.

B. Training adults and cultivating the soul, and it is done by correcting mistakes and controlling human passions: giving instructions which aims to increase virtue, and chastisement of the evils with which God visits men for their amendment. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."* (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV) Instruction in this verse is the Word used for Paideia. The Word of God is the best tool to impart training and for cultivating the souls of men and women in Christ. Therefore, the more we need to use the Word of God in making disciples and in training them in the ways of God.

9. Elegkho: *"5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him."* (Hebrews 12:5 KJV) The Greek word for 'rebuke', is 'elegkho', and it means the followings:

A. To convict, to refute, to bring shame to the person convicted and to expose the sin.
B. To find the fault and correct either by word (to reprehend severely, to chide, to admonish, to reprove, to call to account, to show one his fault, and to demand an explanation), or by deeds (to chasten or to punish).

The followings are example of using this word:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." (Matthew 18:15 KJV) When your brothers in Christ sin, then you go and confront him; don't speak behind him, but go and confront him, and show him his sin that he might repent and win him back to Christ.

"But Herod the tetrarch, being reproved by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done." (Luke 3:19 KJV) John the Baptist rebuked Herod for his marriage to his brother Philip's wife, and for the rest of the evil he did. In the same way, we need to rebuke those who do such things and get involved in unlawful marriages.

"For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." (John 3:20 KJV) People who do evil, they are afraid to come to the light to avoid to be rebuked. Therefore, the more we need to rebuke them so that might repent and got saved.

"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." (John 8:9 KJV) Christ rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy and duplicity when brought to him a woman and told him that she was caught in adultery but they did not bring to him the man. Jesus rebuked them and brought them into conviction and exposed their wrong motive as we can read here the whole story: *"3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."* (John 8:3-9 KJV) We need to be endowed with the wisdom of God so that when we speak with the people they will be convicted of their sins and convinced of the truth. As well as we need to be discerning with people wrong motive who will try to pass on us their malice and trespasses against others.

“But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all.” (1 Corinthians 14:24 KJV) God’s Word is so important in the midst of our meetings, to convict and convinced sinners with their sins. “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2 KJV) Those who sin we need to reprove them with a convincing Word of God.

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” (Ephesians 5:11 KJV) We are called to rebuke those who do wrong and not to keep silent. If we are keeping silent then we are sharing in their sins. But rather, “Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.” (1 Timothy 5:20 KJV)

Paul instructed Titus to reprove and rebuke those who sin and deviate from the right path of righteousness, “9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake. 12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. 13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.” (Titus 1:9-13 KJV) “These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.” (Titus 2:15 KJV)

God said in His Word, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:19 KJV) Let us therefore adopt this language and trust Him that He will do good to us and to those whom we are rebuking and correcting.

10. Paideuo: “But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.” (1 Corinthians 11:32 KJV) The Greek word for ‘chastened’, is ‘paideuo’, and it means:

1. to train children, to be instructed or taught or learn
2. to chastise with words, to correct and mold the character by reproof and admonition
3. The chastising of God by the affliction of evils and calamities through pestilences, and natural disasters.
4. To chastise with blows, or to scourge. For example of a father punishing his son, or a judge ordering one to be scourged

The following are some of the example from the Scripture about this word:

“16 I will therefore chastise him, and release him. 22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.” (Luke 23:16, 22 KJV) This when Pilate wanted to chastise Jesus, then after that to release Him.

The grace of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord reach us, that grace train us, and chasten us to be away from worldliness and ungodliness, “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” (Titus 2:11-12

KJV) Therefore after our coming to Christ, we are put under discipline, and painful training, so that we can receive the holiness and the righteousness of Christ our Lord, “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” (Hebrews 12:6-7, 10 KJV)

Two mighty men of God were chastened as they had been raised up and prepared for God’s service, the first one is Moses, “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.” (Acts 7:22 KJV) The word for paideuo here is the word ‘learned’. The second man is Paul of Tarsus, “I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.” (Acts 22:3 KJV) The word for paideuo here is the word ‘taught’.

Training to serve God is a painful process and needs much discipline, patient and perseverance. Those who serve God their lives is similar to the life of soldiers. Paul described part of what he was passing through in this way: “As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed.” 2 Corinthians 6:9 KJV) Therefore we need to understand and accept that in the process of serving God there is painful trials and chastening that the Lord will allow us to pass through in order to train us.

The Lord also will judge us and chastise us when we do wrong and sin against Him: “32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.” (1 Corinthians 11:32 KJV) The Lord Jesus does that because He love us and He does not want us to be condemn like the non believers. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” (Revelation 3:19 KJV)

As well as beased on that, we are called to instruct those who oppose the truth and deal with their sin, “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” (2 Timothy 2:25 KJV) The Word for paideuo here is ‘instructing’.

Many they misunderstood this passage and they think that the servant of God should not chasten those who do wrong, especially when they read the previous verse to that, “24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” (2 Timothy 2:24-25 KJV) True that the servant of God does not needs to strive or fight, because he is not having hatred in his heart toward those who oppose him. But he needs to chasten them. The servant of God need to do that because that what God had appointed him to do and to serve those whom God had placed under his care, “26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (2 Timothy 2:26 KJV)

But there are time in doing the ministry, there will people who are beyond our control in the evil they are doing. Paul faced such kind of people who were promoting false doctrine contrary to what he was teaching, “17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; 18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the

resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.” (2 Timothy 2:17-18 KJV) Paul therefore was compelled to hand them over to Satan, **“Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.” (1 Timothy 1:20 KJV)** Paul did not hate those people. The meaning of what Paul did, that those who go away from God and His Word, they are under Satan, who had deceived them, who finally will inflict them with punishment because they yielded to him. Such punishment will afflict their bodies, and God would allow it to happen to them, perhaps that might help them in their repentance, realizing their sins was the cause of the damage they received, and with that they would ultimately come back to God.

My dear and beloved:

We should not avoid contending with the people by using the language of rebuke when it is needed. We will receive favor if we use it. Flattering instead will bring troubles on us and on those people whom we are flattering.

It is the true love of God when we speak the truth and rebuke others and reproof them with God’s truth. The language of rebuke will impart the fear of God to others,

Rebuking and reproofing will impart knowledge and the wisdom of God to those who do wrong.

True that some times when we rebuke the people will retaliate against us, or might hate and trouble us. That is why certain disciples and workers of the Lord because of that they avoid to use the language of rebuke. But you would not know the people if you will not use this language. Those who go away after rebuke and hate us they don’t belong to God. Those who belong to Him they will draw closer to God after a rebuke.

We will come to know who is the obedient and who is fearing God after we use the language of rebuke, So with the language of rebuke we can differentiate who is the obedient and willing to follow Christ.

Further, what we can advice here about those who react and start to retaliate after being rebuked, we just need to leave them in the hand of the Lord who is able to handle them and subdue them, But we shall continue to disciple those who are willing and open to corrections and reprove.

Therefore,

- Let us apply faithfully the principles that we learn from God’s Word.
- Let us put aside our emotions and let them not dictate on us of what we need to do.
- Let us put aside the wrong notions of the past and the concepts that do not go along with what we learn from the Scriptures
- Let us ask God power, love and courage to apply His Word in our lives and service unto God as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Let us confess your sins to the Lord and renounce them one by one. Lord forgives me the following sins _____. Lord I repent of all of them.

Lord thank you for your clear Word to me. Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from your Word. Lord I am willing to be chastened, and I am willing to rebuke those who do wrong so that they will be corrected and start to do what is right. Lord I am willing to chasten my family, children and my new disciples and to restrain them from doing wrong. Lord gives me power, love and courage to persevere in doing that. Lord gives me the good health and the strength to continue to serve you effectively. Lord I ask you to protect me from persecution and from those who hate me. Lord provides for me and leads me with your Holy Spirit to do what is right and just. Lord refill me again with the Holy Spirit to go and do the work of yours, reaching out and evangelizing new people and making new disciples.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who had repented of their sins and committed their lives to the message that you sent to your church. Lord protects them and provide for them. Lord gives them wisdom of how and when they will apply this message of yours in their lives. Lord gives them courage to obey you. Lord I pray for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit to go and to preach your Word and serve you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Lord blesses us as a church and leads us to reach out new people and to disciple them. Lord helps us to plant new Bible Studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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