

*“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. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees: 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 12:11-13 KJV*



A burned hand is usually quite reluctant to touch a hot stove, because the memory of searing pain flashes immediately into thought! If the pain had only endured for a moment, it would be little deterrent, but because it throbbed for hours and took many days to heal, it created a permanent, instant reminder! God does not inflict pain upon us; He simply lets us “burn our hand!” The painful memories of reaping what we sowed not only confirm His Word, but serve as a permanent deterrent to sin. Remember how you felt when you did something bad and got caught? Dread, anxiety, and fearful anticipation would consume your thoughts as you waited for punishment! In our house, depending on the offence, we had privileges suspended, extra chores, or a good spanking. None of these were at all pleasant! The best part of any punishment was when it was over! A great weight was lifted and you could actually breathe and think clearly again. You would promise yourself that you would “Never do that again!” How easily we broke those promises! I knew what Dad wanted, but disobeyed many times, to my own injury. Knowing wasn’t enough to stay safe; I had to DO what Dad said. Jesus Said, *“If ye love Me, keep My Commandments. If ye know these things, happy are ye, if ye DO them.”* As we grow older, we obey our parents, knowing they do what they do out of their love for us! If there is no pain associated with correction, we soon forget to do what’s right! As believers grow in grace and knowledge of Truth’s healing power, they become more “constrained” by God’s Love than detained by sin’s suffering. Notice the word “peaceable” used in today’s text. *“Great Peace have they which love Thy Law, and nothing shall offend them!”* We learn by experience and practice that sin hurts and God’s Commandments are actually His Blessings which Guide us into green pastures and “beside the still waters;” that His Love “Constrains” us from evil. There is great wisdom in the old hymn, “Trust and Obey.”

When we walk with the Lord in the Light of His Word, what a Glory He Sheds on our way!  
While we do His Good Will, He Abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.  
Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but His Smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear, can abide while we trust and obey.  
Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil He Doth Richly Repay;  
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is Blessed if we trust and obey.  
But we never can prove the delights of His Love until all on the altar we lay;  
For the Favor He Shows, for the Joy He Bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.  
Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His Feet, or we’ll walk by His Side in the way;  
What He Says we will do, where He Sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey.  
Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.  
~John. Sammis, 1887

When we cease to seek God Himself as our constant companion and let others and worldly cares coerce our time, we forget the Great Love that never coerces, but Whose Commands Guard our Peace and Joy. We become “weary in well doing,” and then we slip into unbelief and sin and the result is misery. We may not think of it this way, but injuries and disease are essentially bondage, preventing happiness. The disease of sin prevents and prohibits the Peace and Joy found only in the Blessedness of obedience!

*“If ye know these things, happy are ye IF YE DO THEM.” John 13:17 KJV*