

Gratitude: Laws of Lovingkindness & Longsuffering: Laws of Divine Punitive Action, Proverbs 3:12; 22:8; Hebrews 12:6; 1 Corinthians 11:30-31

II. The Laws of Divine Punitive Action

Failure to rebound places a person in status quo carnality and, if corrective measures are not taken, will eventuate in reversionism. Failure to utilize the first problem-solving device is an insult to the grace of God and indicates an attitude of rebellion against divine policy.

In order to prevent prolonged stay in carnality, the Supreme Court of Heaven will impose divine discipline upon the believer who refuses to rebound. These measures fall under the Laws of Divine Punitive Action and are documented in several passages:

Proverbs 3:12 - For whom the Lord loves, He disciplines, even as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights.

Hebrews 12:6 - For whom the Lord loves He chastens and He skins alive with a whip every son whom He receives.

1 Corinthians 11:30 - [Problem] Many are weak among you [warning discipline: ailments of the physical body teaming up with the soul to make a person unhappy] and sick [intensified discipline] and a number sleep [sin unto death, 1 John 5:16].

1 Corinthians 11:31 - [Solution] If we would judge ourselves [rebound] we would not be judged [disciplined by the Supreme Court of Heaven].

Under the Law of Volitional Responsibility, we bring suffering upon ourselves because of our bad decisions.

Under the Laws of Divine Punitive Action, God imposes suffering upon us in a grace manner in an effort to influence rebound adjustment and doctrinal recovery.

In our recent studies, of which the Santa Fé Trail is an illustration, we have noted the application of this concept: divine discipline is designed to influence us to habituate wheel-tracks of wickedness and to facilitate wheel-tracks of righteousness.

Both the Law of Volitional Responsibility and the Laws of Divine Punitive Action are found in one verse:

Proverbs 22:8 - He who sows wickedness or evil shall reap trouble [Law of Volitional Responsibility] and the rod of His wrath shall be ready [Laws of Divine Punitive Action].

There are several things which accompany one's prolonged stay in carnality:

- A zero reading on the Gratitude Gauge.
- A resultant vacuum which draws into the soul the venom of several mental attitude sins from the emotional and arrogance complexes.
- The return to power of the First Husband which results in the desires of the body dominating the life.
- This means the SWAT Teams of emotion and the lust pattern dictate policy over the soul.

Nevertheless, through it all, God keeps us alive with the intention that, given enough time and motivated by an intensifying level of suffering, we will eventually orient and adjust and resume the advance.

In order for recovery to be available to the believer who decides to end his reversionism, he must be physically alive to do so.