

WHY ARE THINGS SO TOUGH?
Responding Properly to God's Loving Discipline
HEBREWS 12:4-11

I. WE MUST REALIZE THAT GOD USES ALL SUFFERING AND HARDSHIP TO DISCIPLINE HIS TRUE CHILDREN (4-5)

II. WE MUST RESPOND PROPERLY TO GOD'S DISCIPLINE (5)

A. Realize it takes a knowledge of the Word to respond properly (5a)

B. We must avoid the wrong responses (5b)
1. We are not to regard discipline lightly

2. We are not to faint when disciplined

III. TO RESPOND PROPERLY, WE MUST RECOGNIZE WHY GOD DISCIPLINES (6-11)

A. *Know that* God's discipline stems from **His love** for us and submit (6)

B. *Understanding* God's discipline **brings about endurance** (7a)

C. God's discipline **affirms our sonship** (7b-8)

D. God's discipline **is for our benefit so that we will share His holiness** (9-11)