

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc

## Lord, Deal With Me, *Part 2*

*Lay aside every weight!* This is God's instruction for us in Hebrews 12:1. "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." What is a weight? It is anything that hinders, anything that slows down our progress, anything that keeps us from succeeding, anything that gets us off course.

In our family, we have a whole staff of



photographers. Everybody has a camera, and they love nature photography. They'll hike for miles to get a picture of some bird in a tree. You should see all the backpacks, all the camera

equipment, all the lenses. I mean, they are loaded. They are equipped.

Sometimes you and I are loaded, but with the wrong thing. We're equipped with wrong ideas, mistaken concepts, selfish dreams, and misdirected plans. How are we going to recognize this? How are we going to know what to stop and what to start, what to continue and what to eliminate? How will we know? Our answer comes when we understand the chastening of the Lord.

For years, I thought chastening was when God did something awful to you because of

*"Chastening is one of the best things God does for us."*

your bad behavior. I didn't know God was good. Somehow that thought passed me by. I didn't know "every good and perfect gift" came from above.<sup>1</sup> I didn't know Jesus came to give life and to give it more abundantly.<sup>2</sup> I didn't know He'd meet all my needs out of His riches in glory.<sup>3</sup> I just thought if God gets "ticked off" with you, there's no telling what will happen to you. He may run over you with a car. So when I came to Hebrews chapter 12, I didn't read it. I skipped over it. "No use reading that! I don't want to know about that! I know there's something awful about chastening. I don't want to know." But, praise the Lord, I found out that chastening is one of the best things that God does for us. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing.

As a parent, you chasten your children. You start when they're small and you say, "Don't touch the stove. The stove's hot!" or "Stay out of the road!" As they get bigger, you add bigger things, bigger do's and bigger don'ts. Eventually, your ideas become suggestions. As they roll from their teens into their twenties, you can't command them anymore. But throughout their years in your home, you speak to them because you want them to be successful. You teach them so they will know how to run God's race.

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We want our children to recognize those things in their life that are a barrier, the things that are a hindrance, the things that are sin. God, our Father, wants us as His beloved children to acknowledge sins and weights too. Again, He said, “Lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Every individual has a race set before him. Your race is difference from my race. What impedes my progress may not be a hindrance or a barrier to you. I lay certain things aside. You must lay certain things aside. When you lay something aside, you put it down. You back off from it. You don’t go back and pick it up. It’s like throwing a rock into a pond. When you throw a rock into a pond, it sinks to the bottom of the pond. You do not retrieve it. It is finished. It is over.

Abraham laid aside his family. God said, “Leave Ur of the Chaldees.” That was Abraham’s home. “Go to a land I will show you.”<sup>4</sup> Abraham didn’t know where he was going, but He obeyed God. I’m sure his family and his friends harassed him.

“You’re doing what?”

“Where are you going?”

“You don’t know?”

They must have thought, “This is one crazy old man!”

Why did he do it? God spoke to him and said, “Leave Ur of the Chaldees.” He told him to lay his family aside. God said, “Don’t take them.” I know he took his father and he took Lot. His father died along the way, and Lot turned out to be a hindrance and a weight to him. Several times, he had to rescue him from danger. He didn’t lay everything aside and it cost him.

What are you going to lay aside? Is there anything in your life that’s a hindrance, that’s a barrier? I don’t know, but I know who knows. And I know God doesn’t want to tell me. He wants to tell you. When God speaks to you, it’s a time of growth, a time of maturity, a time of trust, and a time of obedience. But, God is not going to

“get” you. He is going to speak to you about the weights and the sins, the hindrances and barriers in your life, the obstacles that prevent you from running the race. He will deal with us in our spirit. Then we know, “There is something I’m supposed to do, something I’m supposed to say, somewhere I’m supposed to go or something I must correct.” If we want to please Him, we must listen when He deals with us and we must obey.

Paul prayed for the Colossian church that they might please God. We too can pray, “That [we] might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”<sup>5</sup> God will answer our prayer! With time on our knees before the throne of God, we will know His will. Every weight and every sin will be illuminated and we can lay them aside. This is chastening.

<sup>1</sup>James 1:17

<sup>4</sup>Genesis 12:1

<sup>2</sup>John 10:10

<sup>5</sup>Colossians 1:10

<sup>3</sup>Philippians 4:19

