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Fearless Child of God

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love” (1 John 4:18).

Many of us struggle with fear of judgment, even after becoming Believers. We may be afraid God will punish us, because we still have problems, we still sin, and we don't look like “saints.” We may feel something is wrong with us and it is our fault (we feel unworthy and under judgment), and we are not “good enough.” Satan thrives on making Believers feel this way, because if they feel insecure in their adoption, they will seek ways to make themselves more “acceptable” to God, emphasizing their work, not God's, and they are prey for satan's promise of “I will change myself.”

It IS true we are unworthy of God's love, but it is also true that He loves us regardless with a perfect love. For by the blood of Jesus we receive **Justification** and are saved from God's wrath (Romans 5:9)—born again and adopted out from our spiritual slavery to the world into God's household as His children, for “*unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 18:3). Now, God's **Sanctification** process begins working in us. We are nurtured by His Word and Spirit in our earthly lives, growing up in His Household, raised to inherit in His Son's future Kingdom (James 2:5). By this, God is parenting us to be like His first-born, Jesus (1 John 3:2), “*whom He appointed heir of all things*” (Hebrews 1:2). Our **Glorification** in the Resurrection or Rapture is the end of God's sanctifying work in us—our “coming of age” into an inheritance to rule with Christ (Revelation 20:6; 22:5), “*according to His own purpose and grace*

which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity” (2 Timothy 1:9b).

Of Sanctification, Paul says, “*as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God*” (Galatians 4:1-7), yet, presenting “*your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification*” (Romans 6:19b).

Sometimes we may mistake the process of Sanctification as judgment or punishment, but you are not to “*faint when you are reproved by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and he scourges every son whom he receives*” (Hebrews 12:5b-6), for “*if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness*” (Hebrews 12:8-11), growing “*up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ*” (Ephesians 4:15). May we trust and not fear God's parenting of us. Amen.

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