“When Believers Stray…”
Proverbs 3:11-12
What Happens When Believers Stray?

Intentionally or accidently???

What **DOESN’T** change:

* God’s love – Romans 8:37-39
* Your salvation – Romans 11:29

So does open, unrepentant sin **go unnoticed**?

“Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?” (Romans 6:1)
And He Is Profoundly Patient!

“There is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness” (Psalm 145:8).

New Testament “patience” = “makro-thumia”
   Literal = “long + anger/passion” #3115
   “waiting a long time before expressing anger”

Galatians 5:22 – (fruit of the Spirit) – “patience”
Purpose of His Discipline – Repentance; Conformed to His Image

Hebrews 12:10-11 – “share in His holiness!”
“all discipline” “sorrowful”
“yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness”
Big Picture of His Discipline

Motivated in His love – “for whom the Lord loves He disciplines” (Proverbs 3:12)

** conflicts with cultural “Cosmic Santa”
Jesus died to make you **holy**, not happy!

King David = “sins of my youth” (Psalm 25:7). And, may reveal a lack of salvation.
Keep His Ultimate Goal In Mind

“For I know the plans that I have for you…”
(Jeremiah 29:11)

“My children, with who I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you…” (Galatians 4:19).

“…conformed to His image” (Romans 8:29).

RESTORED IN HIS IMAGE! 😊
He Forgives, But Allows Us To Experience Consequences of Our Sin

Luke 15 – “what a mess I’m in!”

Contemplate the areas where carnality manifests in your life?

Parenting principle: sheltering children from consequences of bad behavior
His Methodology

“Oppressors” – “He gave them into the hands of plunderers...” (Judges 2:14)

Thorn in the flesh – humility + dependence
(2 Corinthians 12:7)

Sickness – (1 Corinthians 11:30)
(but not all sickness)
Disturbed, downcast in soul – (Ps. 32:3-4)
* “my body wasted away” (Psalm 43:5)
* “groaning all day long”
* “Thy hand was heavy on me”
* “My vitality was drained away”

He works in kindness – “Know ye not that the kindness of God leads to repentance?” (Romans 2:4)
The Good News!
His Discipline Confirms...

1. His steadfast love – (Proverbs 3:11)

2. His will – “deliver us from evil” (Mt. 6:13)

3. We are children of God – conviction of the Spirit! (John 16:8).

**Ultimate end:** “no spot or wrinkle” (Eph. 5:27).