

USA

“When I read about the vespers on the application of the rod on children in *Parenting And Nurture*, though on one hand I really enjoyed the vivid accounts of the discipline of the children in our midst, especially the prefaces of Olive Pee, on the other hand, I am very fearful of the law being applied on me. When I recalled those times when pastor dealt very harshly with me, there is still lingering fear within of going through it again. Those were painful processes. But that is exactly what it means to deal with our sins thoroughly. It requires pulling down, rooting up, smashing and crushing all the strongholds. What I am today has very much to do with the nurturing and admonishing by pastor all these years. The resultant effect of the application of the law on me is, the heart is made more tender to acknowledge

my deplorable state before God and having more burden to cry to God for mercy. In this sense, I am blessed because the law is like a school master directing me to Christ. I look at the Americans, they love to flatter and be flattered. Even at young age, like the students in my summer class, they cannot take even the slightest negative remark. Teachers are encouraged to entertain them, using soft talks and positive reinforcements. The end result is they become proud, soft and bold to indulge in all kinds of vices. How then can they receive the strait gate and narrow way Gospel which administers rebuke and reproof? In comparison, they are cursed and we are blessed. We have pastor to hammer us till we are flattened and able to squeeze through the strait gate of salvation. Zephaniah said pastor is probably the lone man that is unflinchingly advocating this way of scriptural upbringing. I agreed with him wholeheartedly. In view of the vast majority who has gone into the broad way that leads to destruction, we are indeed unique and special in the sight of God to be put under pastor's ministry. Whenever I think of this, all my discouragements over the many failures and rejections I face here in New York dissipate into thin air. Instead I encourage my soul to count my blessings and bless the Lord all the days of my life." *Zipporah Lee, New York, 24 July*