

August 3, 2022

An Update to the Spiritual Disciplines *Being Shaped*

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
But a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. II Timothy 1:7*

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline*

Proverbs 1:7



Fools are characterized by a lack of discipline and little wit; they ruin their lives and others as well. Those who wish to improve themselves must learn to accept correction and learn from it. The disciple is to apply his heart to discipline and listen carefully to knowledge.

The effective Christian worker must have the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). But that power must be expressed in a loving spirit, or it may do damage and often the deciding factor between success and failure is a matter of **SELF-DISCIPLINE**.

The ultimate goal of every believer is to become like Jesus (I John 3:2).

THE QUESTION IS HOW DOES ALL OF THIS TAKE PLACE?

Accepting discipline is important to personal development. One must acquire understanding, especially about oneself, to grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally.

In order to have a right relationship with God we must discipline our lives.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

A good working definition is found in Donald S. Whitney's book entitled "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. He states that "*spiritual disciplines are the God given means we are to use in the spirit filled pursuit of godliness.*"

Notice that they are God given and it is a spirit filled effort. He lists three primary catalysts that God uses for changing us or confirming us to Christlikeness, out of the three only one is under our control. The three are people, circumstances, and the spiritual disciplines. However, we do control what we practice and how often we practice, as well as, when we practice the spiritual disciplines. Disciples must have intense devotion and firm self-discipline.

Matters of Consideration Concerning Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines put us in the very presence of God. God never expects us to read his mind. He will always tell us what He wants us to know and what He wants us to do. We can't pick up or put down God whenever we get ready. God must always be with us and in us.

The presence of God is an experience that is both powerful and life changing. God doesn't need human efforts. God is always ready to operate; it's for us to use what he has given to us.

The Spiritual Disciplines are means He has given to us for the purpose of producing godliness (I Timothy 4:7).

To be like Jesus



Topic 21: Worship

Bringing God Glory in All You Do

Topic 22: Solitude & Silence:

Learning to Quiet Your Soul

Topic 23: Bible Reading & Study:

Being Rooted in God's Truth

Topic 24: Prayer:

Communing with God

Topic 25: Discerning God's Will:

Figuring Out What God Wants You to Do

Topic 26: Fasting:

Cultivating an Appetite for the Things of God

Topic 27: Giving:

Understanding Generosity and Stewardship

1. Do you want to be like Jesus? Why or why not

2. Where does the believer's spiritual power come from and how do you tap into the believer's power source?

3. What are some misconceptions about holiness and godliness?

4. What can you do to change your habits and your lifestyle as a believer?

5. What is the most undisciplined area of your life and what can you do to change it?

6. What is a good Christian and how do you become one?

PURPOSE OF THE DISCIPLINES

*Blessed is the man who God corrects;
So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.*

Job 5:17

Practical Christian Living

As believers, we should seek to be exemplary in every aspect of our lives, doing our best for the sake of Christ and His gospel.

- The Termination of the Self-Life
“I have been crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20).
- The Condemnation of the Self-Life
“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh by according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:3-4).
- The Crucifixion of the Self-Life
“Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin: (Romans 6:6).”

PRACTICE OF THE DISCIPLINES

*He who ignores discipline come to poverty and shame,
but whoever heeds correction is honored.*

Proverbs 13:18

The disciplines are all God given and the initiative is divinely inspired. In other words, to practice them begins with God. Every believer must be willing to let go of the control that he/she is exerting over his/her life.

The disciplines provide an opportunity for God to communicate with you, to confront you, to change you, and to call and commission you to kingdom responsibility.

POWER OF THE DISCIPLINES

*Jesus replied, "you are in error
because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God.*

Matthew 22:29

Jesus Our Model

In order for God to be satisfied with our lifestyle, there must be evidence in us that was also in Jesus. The character of Christ is the example we must follow.

This keeps us in the Father's presence for directions and a keener focus for ministry. Jesus then expects us to mimic him.