

The Climb – Part 4

The Elements Needed For The Climb

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. Matthew 5:1-2 (MSG)

Two Crucial Elements Needed:

- **Wisdom and discipline.**

Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. Proverbs 1:2-3 (NLT)

Recap:

- **Wisdom is knowing what to do, when to do it and why it needs to be done.**
- **Wisdom means I have God's plan for my life.**
- **Wisdom understands the challenge of change.**

Principle: Those committed to Climb with Jesus understand that they need wisdom and discipline to fulfill God's purpose.

- **Discipline has a twin, it's called self-control.**
- **Discipline and self-control has to work in partnership to start and to continue growth.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT) Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

- **Discipline deals with training – self-control deals with boundaries.**

Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do; and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. Follow the Lord's rules for doing his work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize. Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop. Think over these three illustrations, and may the Lord help you to understand how they apply to you. 2 Timothy 2:3-7 (TLB)

"He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. Acts 17:24-27 (NLT)

- **Discipline helps me to start well – self-control helps me to finish well.**

Daniel made up his mind to eat and drink only what God had approved for his people to eat. And he asked the king's chief official for permission not to eat the food and wine served in the royal palace. Daniel 1:8 (CEV)

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 2 Timothy 3:1-3 (NLT)

- **Wisdom builds patience, discipline builds focus and self-control builds safeguards within the boundaries needed for success.**

Discipline The Word Wise Climber's Love:

- **Discipline is carrying out what wisdom decided needed to be done.**

*Get the truth and never sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment. **Proverbs 23:23 (NLT)***

*You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires. **Colossians 2:20-23 (NLT)***

- **Just because something requires discipline does not mean it is spiritually beneficial.**

*"I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but **I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be.** No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but **I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing:** Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize** for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us." **Philippians 3:12-14 (TLB)***