

General Topics :: Discipline**Discipline - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/8/31 7:16**

Now, I'm not talking about church discipline or something but about 'discipline'. That means, I decide to do something on a given time and I find myself unable to do so, not because I can't but because I don't want too.

An example what the results are:

I'm used to go to bed late, this causes me to be unable to get up early. So I get up at 11 am, basically skipping breakfast. You can imagine that I want to eat then, this results in praying and reading His Word with haste in my heart (which should not be).

But its not only that, also when I need to do something important or to do things for school I often push it forward. So you might ask, what am I doing if I'm pushing forward important things? Usually just surfing the internet and doing a lot of small things, which eats up my time.

Does anyone recognize this? I feel it hinders or might hinder my future relationship with God. According to a brother I can't just pray for discipline. Can anyone offer some advice or insight?

Ps, I hope I didn't post such a thread before. Atleast I saw nothing coming up on the first page of search. :-)

Re: Discipline, on: 2007/8/31 7:57

Join the military. When I was in high school I used to sleep in until noon on the weekends (usually because I was hung over). I joined the Marines right out of high school, and since that time the only time I've ever slept past 6am is if I am traveling in some other timezone in some other part of the world.

Of course, I'm not serious about you joining the military. But the principles are the same. Do something often enough, and consistently enough, and it will become habit. That's discipline.

Coaching football (not soccer, for our non-American friends... I'm talking American football) we drill drill drill... and when we're done drilling, we drill some more. Over and over again until the players can do the drills in their sleep. It's my goal to make sure when they dream at night, they dream about drills.

It's the same principle in living the Christian life. You need to set aside a time when no matter what's going on, that's your time with the Lord. For me, it's 4:30 in the morning. (Sometimes 5 in the morning, lol) At that time of the day the phone is not ringing, my kids aren't running around, my wife is still sleeping. I get the coffee going, and for at least an hour I study the Word and talk with the Lord. And everyone knows that that time is sacred... unless one of the kids is throwing up, I'm not to be disturbed. I shut the office door... and it's just me and the Lord.

My wife's time with the Lord is usually late at night. Same reasons. Kids are in bed, the phone has (usually) stopped ringing, and I'm konked out on the couch with a football game on.

Our family devotional time is usually around lunch time, but it is very flexible. Since we homeschool, we have the ability to be flexible.

These are things that didn't just happen... we had to make them happen. And it takes time to get into that habit... but you just have to prioritize and say "this is the most important hour of the day, and it will not be interrupted."

As far as time wasted... I think we all struggle with that. With all the media outlets, and entertainment at the fingertip, it is so easy to get distracted. You just have to find a way to shut it out.

But also keep in mind that down time is not always wasted time. We need down time. That's why God gave the nation of Israel the Sabbath. That's why God rested on the 7th day. We are to follow His example. This is why most pastors burn out... they never allow down time.

Krispy

Re: Discipline - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2007/8/31 10:48

Just wanted to share something from Chuck Swindoll:

"Discipline is the narrow way to obedience."

"Discipline is how God builds and develops character and virtue in our lives."

"There is no growth without discipline; there is no maturity without discipline!" ;-)

Re: - posted by death2self (), on: 2007/8/31 13:22

Quote:

-----According to a brother I can't just pray for discipline. Can anyone offer some advice or insight?

Why not ask for God to discipline you and bring you into alignment with His will for your life? I've prayed many prayers like this, like Lord do whatever you need to do in my life to bring me in accord with your will for my life. If you're willing to earnestly pray this, the Lord will meet you but I wouldn't do this casually. This is a frightening prayer but Jesus has met me when this has been the cry of my heart.

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/8/31 13:57

I think it is important to point out that the Spirit filled life is a bit different than living a 'disciplined' life. A person can in effect by discipline learn to immitate a lot of 'Christian' behaviors. But this is not to be confused with a person who as Galatians asks, *"Having begun in the Spirit are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"*

Our lives as Christians flow from our relationship and communion with God. The whole point of salvation is not to make a lot of disciplined folk that can do all the right things. It is to bring us into a state of Eternal Life (see John 17:3). If we have eternal Life (real and effectual reconciliation to God) and we live our lives in communion with Him- walking in the Spirit- you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. A trillion teachings and disciplines and laws cannot take you to where I am talking about. It's is all about a living relationship with Christ by the Holy Spirit.

The objective is not some weird conformity to some standard. Our objective is that we yield the fruit of the Spirit. The axe is already laid to the root of the tree (Matt. 3:10). No fruit = no fellowship. It is that simple. A person may want the gratification of religion to calm the conscience- but a relationship with Christ will yield the FRUIT of the Spirit. No relationship= no fruit. Discipline cannot produce fruit- discipline *is* a fruit (we could argue self-control). Folk that do not produce fruit do not commune with God in a real way. They may have religion- but are they walking with God? No amount of discipline can take the place of fellowship with Christ. It IS what we need. It is the solution to our lack of spiritual self-discipline.

Re: Discipline - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2007/8/31 14:19

Warrior,

I suggest you set some goals for yourself. You recognize that you must be lazy - you are allowing your own life to just float along - you see the need for structure.

So, you get a paper and pencil and make a list of the things you need to do to get some structure. (I wonder how can you afford to stay in bed until 11 AM? No job? No chores? What are you doing at night that you can sleep so late? Blows my mind...)

Some things you might want to consider:

1. Time with the LORD.
2. Perhaps there are others in your household who need assistance: get up and help them.
3. Go to school.
4. Get a job.

5. Limit your time with media, like the internet, watching TV, DVDs, movies.
6. Take on a hobby.
7. Get creative with something that interests you.

Brother, you need to get busy and the easiest way is to look around you and when you see a need that needs to met, allow God to use you to satisfy that need. This is the short of the long, or the essence of my post.

Blessings,

ginnyrose

Re: Discipline, on: 2007/8/31 18:03

Did you get a new heart when you were saved? Not the organ that pumps the blood, but the inner being, the want-to if you will let me use a common term. Did He put a new Spirit within you. What is your passion now after you were saved? How are you different? How many God things do you do during the day, prayer, Bible Study, helping other people, Honoring your Mother and Father so that you may enjoy a long life? Everything you do, do you think of it being as unto the Lord. Honoring your parents is a commandment with a promise. That commandment is not conditional, on whether they deserve the honor is not an option to disobey as long as it is not being disobedient to the Lord. Add up all those things up that you do during a 24 hours period and then other things that are done to satisfy yourself and see what the percentage is on self and how much for HIM. I don't know what these answers are for you. You should be able to examine yourself and see. The Bible teaches us to examine ourselves. When you do examine yourself and you don't see the heart is right then have a talk with the Lord and get your heart right, if it's not. You can't do it on self effort. The Lord and the His Spirit gives us the want-to, or it's all in vain. We are not saved by works, but unto good works. We don't work to be saved, but if we are saved, you will see some works in our life as a result of our salvation. Not just part of the saved will see that, but all will see if it is there. I will be praying for you.

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/8/31 18:21

Thank you for your replies and insights brothers and sisters!

Actually the thought has crossed my mind that I should have joined the army, so discipline would have been drilled in I reasoned. But that was just a silly thought. Yea its true I/we need some down time, but I have a tendency to take it while you can't.

Reminds me of proverbs, in the time of harvest you don't continue sleeping. But even during the time of harvest we need rest. So thats true. :-)

The way Sojourner put it is how I thought about it. But can discipline become a 'work'?

Anyhow, I do notice that a lot great men and women of God have a lot of discipline.. or its simply flowing out of their passion for the Lord? If thats the case it cannot be learned.

You are right RobertW, I do desire a Spirit filled life. Now at the moment I do have a desire to give the Lord an hour in the morning. It's just that I can't do it if I dealt unwisely with my time from the previous day. I'll have some more thought about your post.

@ death2self,

Yes I could ask God for that, and I can certainly see that its a scary prayer. But even though its scary, it is the best.

@ Ginnyrose,

The reason I stay in bed till 11 am is because its still my summer holiday and my job. In order to earn enough cash to get married I'm doing afternoon shifts which are from 3pm till 11:30pm or even later. I usually work 2 or 3 days a week because its too heavy for me to work a full week. The other days when I'm off I find it very difficult to just go to bed at 10pm so I can get up at a decent time. (7am) So don't worry that I'm going out drinking, dancing and partying. :-P

With school I can't just have a quiet time in the evening because I get too tired. Thats why I am trying to move it to the morning.

Today I wrote down some things on a list and it did help a bit.

Point 5 is a good one, I don't watch tv on my studentroom because I don't have one. It eats 2 much time and its mostly junk anyhow, same with dvd's. But when you are talking about internet its another deal.. I do spend much time on internet

t.

Still when school is starting I'll be very busy. Looking back to previous year I noticed that I was pushing a lot of tasks for ward so I would not be to busy, only to find myself being flooded with work at the end. Lazy servants are not portrayed th at positively in the Bible!

Yea I do see the need of structure... 1st the law so structure gets stamped in and then grace...? :-)

I love you guys; your brother in the Lord,
Jonathan

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/8/31 18:30

Hi brother moe_mac,

I know what its like to be totally captured by Christ! After being saved I devoured the Word and I couldn't wait to be done with my internship at that time to be with God! How glorious and wonderful as everything grows strangely dim compared to the glory of Christ. :-D

But I know that I don't have this much passion about the Lord as at the start and this troubles me.

I'll have some thought about the questions you ask. I heard a Paul Washer sermon yesterday where he also stated that honoring your parents is not optional.

Can one have a new heart and a new Spirit and not be dead to self?
Thank you for your reply!

Shalom,
Jonathan

Re:, on: 2007/8/31 23:08

Quote:

Warrior4Jah wrote:

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Thank you for your reply!

Shalom,
Jonathan

Below is what the Apostle Paul said, so it appears to me it that dying to self is a daily thing. Obedience is so important to a relationship with him. It sounds to me you have the right heart and the right attitude. If you were not concerned about y our walk, and you are, then I would be concerned about you. Just remember he that started a good work in you is able t o finish that which he started.

Here is another one that keeps us from being impatient with out progress.

Isa 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

KJV

Just stay in HIS WORD and surround yourself with as many older Godly people as you can, and ask for advice, and whe n they give it to you, confirm what they tell you with his word and HIS Spirit living within you, then keep walking and trusti ng in HIM. Don't be under the impression that your physical youth is a handicap, because it is not. You can be a spiritua l giant at a young age, if you make HIM first and the center of all in your life. The Lord doesn't see age, he looks at the h

heart. I will be praying for you brother.

1 Cor 15:31

31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

KJV

If Paul died it daily, I think me and you does it that way too.

Re: - posted by Compton (), on: 2007/8/31 23:58

Hi Warrior,

I appreciate your candor about your discipline. We could all stand to be more frank with one another about our weaknesses in many areas of our lives. Also, I certainly agree with Robert and similar observations that rigged 'discipline' is not the highest aim, but trying to understand what being led of the Spirit is. We learn this I believe...and listen and learn from each other to grow in the life of the Spirit.

Quote:

-----But I know that I don't have this much passion about the Lord as at the start and this troubles me.

At the risk of sounding contradictory, I would like to add that 'passion' is all well and good, but is really at the other end of the game field from the goal of discipline. In my experience, waiting for the passion before taking the initiative is a, well undisciplined gameplan to life. This may sound odd since so many Christian songs and themes seem to center around having more passion for the Lord. I believe this kind of thinking will only cause you to go in circles rather than achieve real traction.

Here is a short piece of practical advice I can give you: don't attack every area of your life all at once with ultimate goals. Instead, right the ship one degree at a time. For instance, if you need to diet, make modest goals of exercise and healthy eating, and experience what it is like to succeed before adding to those goals. Most people who go from having no real plan to setting extreme goals are unable to follow through and instead of tasting success, they become familiar with failure.

Becoming familiar with success is a most important step to self-discipline. Knowing what it takes to win is crucial. You win in one area first, and take notes on how you did it. Then apply that experience to other areas...one at a time if you need to.

Don't assume you can change all of your habits at once. You will only frustrate yourself, and become convinced there is something in your personality that is inherently unable to accept discipline. Part of being spirit-led is being free from the burden of changing everything all at once...real traction is more important than idealistic promises.

I like what the American President Abe Lincoln said..."I may walk slow but I never walk backwards." Well many zealous people run forward only to fall backwards because their progress was only a burst of zeal and passion, and not true maturity and knowledge. Maturity comes when we see how to win with wisdom and not with passion. Only maturity produces sustainable results. Living by passion, even in spiritual matters, will only burn you out.

So set a simple, realizable goal today and start getting used to winning brother!

Blessings,

MC

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/9/1 6:44

Thank you moe_mac for you advise and prayers, I appreciate it a lot! Thanks Compton for your advise too! :-)

Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2007/9/1 19:18

Compton's:

Quote:
-----Don't assume you can change all of your habits at once. You will only frustrate yourself, and become convinced there is something in your personality that is inherently unable to accept discipline. Part of being spirit-led is being free from the burden of changing everything all at once..
.real traction is more important then idealistic promises.

I think this is very good advice. The Holy Spirit will work on us as we yield our lives to Him. God has a way of putting His finger on the most important things. He has a way of sorting through to find what is most important to us that He might show us the controversy He has with us. It has been my experience that He takes these things one by one. Not that somehow being born again is a progressive work; but God does have a way of bringing things to the surface to be dealt with. He knows what He wants to work on next. I think the key is our willingness to keep saying yes to Him.

Re: - posted by SeanHobson (), on: 2007/9/1 21:18

WHen you figure it out Warrior, please PM me the formula.

I'm serious..

God speed

Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/9/2 5:56

So I guess the next step is that I find what the HS wants (me?) to work on. There are so many things I would like to see changed, actually we only need to read His holy Word to find more things in which we should be changed. Can I really keep up? Thank you for some more food for thought! :-)

Quote:
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Re: - posted by Warrior4Jah (), on: 2007/9/2 6:00

Hey SeanHobson!

I'd love too, if I could. Is there really one formula? I've found out that I often thought to have 'the solution', which in reality was just me trying to put God in another box. :-(