

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINES OF DANGER

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Faith, Fear, Wisdom, Perseverance

There are Three (3) practical aspects
to Christianity that are "Essential Facts" that give us and the world evidence that
a man or woman is truly a Christian.

These 3 Are;

The **Logos** or Word by which a Christian lives by. There is the **Pathos** which is the
passion of the Christian's life, and there is the **Ethos**, that new lifestyle that a
Christian has been set upon to live out in this world.

In a word – It's Your **Witness**, Your **Testimony**, Your **Example**

1 John 4:17

Herein is our love made **perfect**, (*made complete*) that we may have boldness in the day
of judgment: because as he is, **so are we in this world.**

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Matthew 16:24

Jesus said to His **disciples**, "If **anyone** desires to come after Me,
let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

**How do we fight the dangers that come against us
as Christians and what are they ?**

Nehemiah 6:9-11

For they all *were trying to* make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” ¶ Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.... :10 “and Nehemiah’s friend, Shemaiah the men who are trying to kill are coming after you, you must hide in the house of the Lord... :11 The said I - - **“Should such a man as I flee?”**

Nehemiah was a man just like us, but the difference was; he knew what his purpose was, his calling was for his life and he had no doubts about what he was to do.

So Nehemiah stepped up and out and into the “battle-ministry” of the Lord Jesus Christ...

Church – Listen, Life is Full of Dangers

There are **physical** dangers and **emotional** dangers. There are dangers at **home** and dangers on the **road**. There are dangers at **work** and dangers at **play**.

It’s the fear of these dangers that can steal our faith away in God and cause us to sit on the sidelines....

Dangers cannot be avoided; but what we can do is prepare for them and when we do – we are empowered and emboldened and even thankful for the end result – victory over the dangers in life.

Nehemiah and his Struggles

are perfect examples of the dangers that come against the people of God.

And yet, without the attacks, our faith and ministry wouldn’t be real and effective.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DANGER

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT’S USABLE TO GOD

1.) The Dangers of Deception

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be **deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. :8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Romans 7:11

(paul says that sin is a deceiver)

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, **deceived** me,

Deception cannot exist unless there's the true.

The existence of truth is what gives deception its motive to deceive.

And behind every **deception** there is a **deceiver**.

Revelation 12:9

So the **Great Dragon** was cast out, that **Serpent** of old, called the **Devil** and **Satan**, who **deceives** the whole world;

2 John 7

For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. :14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Exposing Deception:

Deception knows how to talk – ***it can talk nice.***

Deception knows how to entice – ***it can look really good to my senses.***

Deception knows how to be religious – ***it can seem spiritual.***

Deception knows how to create a false faith – ***it can make promises.***

Deception knows how to flatter – ***it can sound encouraging***

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, :5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

We should not be surprised by this...

Matthew 24:24

For false christs and false prophets will rise and (1) show great signs and wonders (2) to deceive, (3) if possible, even the elect. = impossible !

Exposing Dangers:

Sin, Doubt, Temptation, Ease, Wants, Security...

Deception has as its goal - compromise !

Compromise is fine in politics and sales, but it can never be allowed in spiritual matters.

*What gasoline is to Fire,
so is compromise to Complacency.*

??? Dealing with Deception ???

Stay focused on what is true – the Bible !!!

Q: What does the Bible say about my situation?

A: Do exactly what it says you're to do about it.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

Stay focused on what you're called to do – your ministry

Q: What am I doing for my church that Satan hates.?

A: That thing that encourages others to get involved.

Nehemiah 6:11

And said I, "**Should such a man as I flee?** And who *is there* - such as I - who would go into the temple to save his life by hiding? **I will not go in!**"

Philippians 1:27-28

Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, :28 and not in any way are you terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you, it is the proof of your salvation...

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2.) The Danger of Perception

Nehemiah 6:5

Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, **with an open letter** in his hand. :6 In it was written: It is reported among the people...

The **Danger of Perception** is that it breeds **Intimidation**.
And **intimidation** leads to **control** and **control** leads to false **perceptions**.

The Christian Has Been Found

(we're not lost – we know exactly where we're at and to whom we belong)

**But People who are into controlling others
Want you to think that they are something that they're not...**

“Open Letter”

Nehemiah was attacked by his enemies using an open letter.
This letter was an attempt to call Nehemiah's ministry into question
and God's work into doubt. (facebook and blog spots)

There's a great danger to inciting the imagination of others.
(it's known as gossip)

“I can't tell you everything about Susie, but she really needs our prayers.”
- *that's a gross sin that God will punish!*

??? Dealing with Perception / Peer Pressure ???

Throughout the ages God's people have always been under attack and will be. The badge of honor is that we're in great company.

(The Josephs & Daniels & Jeremiahs & Peters & the Paul & the)

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. :11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. :12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*There are people "deployed" among God's people
So as to cause harm and destruction - why ?*

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

(Christian: judge the "atmosphere" around those who claim to know Jesus)

John 8:44

You are of *your* father **the devil**, and the desires of **your father** you want to do. **He** was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in **him**. When **he** speaks a lie, **he** speaks from **his** own resources, for **he is a liar** and **the father** of lies.

(Christian: judge the "atmosphere" around those who claim to know Jesus)

Avoid the Dangers of Perception
By "Identifying Yourself with Jesus Christ"

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3.) The Dangers of Approval

Jesus Christ never looked to receive or to get any applause from people.

He never needed a pat on the back to keep himself going.

Now let me be clear on this.

We have been designed to be encouraged. We need encouragement. But the only true form of encouragement is that which comes from the Lord, thru us...

There is no such thing as a “Spectator Christian”

When we operate in fear –

we’re denying the Lord and His faithfulness – we’re calling God a liar when we don’t trust Him to do what He has spoken...

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

The Parable of the Faithful & a Fearful man self-robbed

Luke 19:20-26

“But coming to the third servant, he brought back only the original amount of **investment** and said, ‘I hid it and kept it safe :21 I was **afraid** because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’ :22 “‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Hard, am I? If you knew so much about me and how tough I am, :23 why didn’t you deposit the **investment** in the bank so I could at least get some interest on it?’ :24 Then turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the **investment** from this servant, and give it to the one who earned the most.’ :25 “‘But, master,’ they said, ‘that servant has enough already!’ :26 “‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘but to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.’”

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked flee when no one pursues, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

*The Danger of Approval – Kill it With **Biblical Confidence***

Acts 11:23

When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and **encouraged** them all that with purpose of heart they should **continue with the Lord**.

Romans 1:11-12

For I am yearning to see you, that I may impart *and* share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen *and* establish you; :12 That is, that we may be mutually **strengthened** *and* **encouraged** *and* **comforted** by each other's **faith**, both yours and mine.

1 Thessalonians 3:2

and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to **establish** you and **encourage** you concerning your **faith**,

Colossians 2:2

that their hearts may be **encouraged**, being knit together in **love**,

John 2:24-25

But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, :25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

??? Dealing with the Fear of Man ???

“One of the deepest testing of a true child of God is for him to stick to his divinely appointed duty while there is a barrage of letters about him.”

- A. W. Tozer

Are you advancing in the cause of Jesus Christ?

(are you doing what he's told you to do?)

Then don't stop to answer those who
want you to get off the course.

Nehemiah 6:1-3

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that ***I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it*** (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), :2 that Sanballat and the Arab sent to me, saying, ***“Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.”*** But they thought to do me harm. :3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

Danger **Feared** is Folly. Danger **Faced** is Victory.

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4.) The Dangers of Possessions

Materialism is always a difficult thing to manage.

not many people can be rich - very few Christians can handle money at all.

In the Old Testament – a godly man was blessed with wealth and long life.

In the New Testament – a godly man is blessed with the indwelling of Christ.

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **:16** For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. **:17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matthew 19:20-24

The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” **:21** Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” **:22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. **:23** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. **:24** And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; **:20** but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Acts 2:41-46

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. **:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **:43** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. **:44** Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, **:45** and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. **:46** So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

??? Dealing with Possessions ???

The dangers coming against: your faith

The dangers coming against: your child's faith

The dangers coming against: your husband faith

The dangers coming against: your wife's faith

The dangers coming against: your churches existence

Evangelistically:

Is it possible that your belief has yet to become faith ?

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well.
Even the demons believe - and tremble!

Give The Invitation & Challenge

Church, we're going to pray

Christians, lets pray.

- (1) Pray that those who are lost right now will be found.
- (2) Pray that those who are wayward will come back home to Christ right now and
- (3) pray that the Lord would receive our worship and gratitude and praise in our tithes and offerings to Him...

————— *End of Study* —————