

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 DEPENDENCE

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

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

1 Peter 2:20-21

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore and make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

1 Peter 2:20-21

For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. **:21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

You Probably won't find this passage in your "Daily Bible Memory Card' list but it applies to our lives more than we think.

Nothing reveals our true sonship with Jesus Christ as does our dependence upon God.

The More We Are.... The Better Off We Are !

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. :9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. :10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For **when I am weak**, then I am strong.

That’s Us In Body - Physically

Our “Degree of Dependence” upon the Lord is a keen Indicator, a Barometer – like a weathervane - pointing in the direction of strength.

2 Corinthians 10:5

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,

That’s Us In Soul - Emotionally

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; :6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. :7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; **Fear** the LORD and **depart** from evil.

That’s Us In Spirit - Spiritually

The More We Are.... The Better Off We Are !

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDENCE

1. Wake Up: your life is too big

wake up to the fact that your life is too big for you

Life, in time becomes **overwhelming** – even too big.

John 6:67-69

Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” :68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have **the words of eternal life**. :69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

All of us are going to go through life.
The question is how and with whom...
There will always be “The God Factor” in life

Psalm 55:4-6

My heart is severely pained within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
:5 Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, And horror has **overwhelmed** me.
:6 So I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.

WAKE UP TO THE DISCIPLINE OF DEPENDENCE

Psalm 61:1-3

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. :2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is **overwhelmed**; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. :3 For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy.

Wake up - In Body

Wake up - In Soul

Wake up - In Spirit

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDENCE

2. Identify: yourself in the scriptures

Identify your situation in light of the scriptures

Identify with those who have gone before us...

Adam, Job, Noah, Abraham, David, what did all these have in common? **Troubles, Pains** and **Sorrows...** and **Victory** !

Romans 15:4

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Psalm 142:3-5

For I am **overwhelmed**, and **you alone** know the way I should turn. Wherever I go, my enemies have set traps for me. :4 I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me. :5 **Then I prayed** to you, O LORD. I say, “You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life.

Identify with the Scriptures Regarding Your **Body**

Do you need a physical healing ?

Identify with the Scriptures Regarding Your **Soul**

Do you need mental-emotional stability ?

Identify with the Scriptures Regarding Your **Spirit**

Do you need spiritual strength ?

Exodus 3:14

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

I AM WHO I AM. The inner meaning of *Yahweh* —"I am the One that becomes what you need" = *Yahweh Shalom. Righteousness, Provider...*

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDENCE

3. **Measure:** your situation to God

measure the magnitude of God against your situation

Psalm 34:18-19

The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit. :19
Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Matthew 5:43-46

"You have heard that it was said, '*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*' :44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, :45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. :46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

But how can I do this ?

See Him for who He is – not what they are

Psalm 92:5

How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!

Psalm 40:5

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

Psalm 139:17

How precious also are **Your thoughts** to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. :9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Measure your situation against the Lord in *Body*

Do you need a physical perspective ?

Measure your situation against the Lord in *Soul*

Do you need a mental-emotional giant ?

Measure your situation against the Lord in *Spirit*

Do you need a spiritual scale ?

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDENCE

4. Understand: your life is in His hands

understand this one thing – He knows what He’s doing

My Favorite verse of Scripture – this week is...

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. :30 I and My Father are one.”

He knows what He’s doing

Why do we struggle with this truth – He knows all. We don't, but we act like we do ?

Psalm 139:23

Search me, O God, and **know my heart**; **Try** me, and **know my anxieties**; :24 and **see** if there is any wicked way in me, and **lead** me **in the way everlasting**.

Knowing God's Perfect Will for Your Life

(is easier than you think. Walk with Him, walk with God every day, always)

“All Stop” if you're living in a sinful situation

– I can guarantee you this;

God's Will is Not Happening in Your Life. - **disconnected**

Psalm 12:5

“Because of the oppression of the weak and the groaning of the needy, I the Lord will now arise. I will protect them from those who **malign (to speak falsely with the intent to cause harm) them.”**

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Example of this... 1 Peter 2:21-23

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: :22 *“Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”*; :23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

Understand your **Body is in His hands now**

Understand your **Soul is in His hands now**

Understand your **Spirit is in His hands now**

!!! Bonus Verse !!!

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.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDENCE

5. Rest: your outcome has been planned

rest in the fact that He has determined the outcome,

“A Determined Outcome?”

Can I mess it up? Can I goof it up ? – Absolutely yes, by being disobedient, just ask Adam, Jonah or King David.

“A Determined Outcome?”

Then why does **the path of “Following God”** often lead to heartache or suffering or pain ?

Romans 8:29-32

For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. :30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. :31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? :32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Ephesians 1:4-7

just as He **chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, (*foreknowledge*) that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, :5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, :6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. :7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

rest in the fact that He has determined the outcome,

Consider Jesus - He was “The” Son of God

Yet He suffered like no other man in all of history, emotionally, spiritually, physically, but why?...

This World is Fallen – Just look at It.
In Our Weaknesses / Sorrows / Pain = He becomes real to us.

Hebrews 4:9-11

There remains therefore a **rest (repose)** for the people of God. **:10** For he who has entered His **rest (repose)** has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His. **:11** Let us therefore be diligent to enter that **rest (repose)**, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **:29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **:30** For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

Sickness will come, **dangers** will happen, **evil** will increase;
but now, in your life & mine - the Lord uses these things as tools for building.

A Prayer to Pray in Hard Times

Romans 15:13

May the **God of hope** fill you (us) with **all joy** and **peace** in believing, that you (we) may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 3:1-3

LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many *are* they who rise up against me. **:2** Many *are* they who say of me, “*There is no help for him in God.*” Selah **:3** But You, O LORD, *are* a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

Jeremiah 29:11-12

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. **:12** Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

He will answer the “**why’s** and the **how comes**” of our lives

Rest in the outcome of your Body

Rest in the outcome of your Soul

Rest in the outcome of your Spirit

- (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
- (3)** Pray that the Lord would receive our worship of Him

End of Study