

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINE OF **DEPENDABILITY**

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

Week 12 of a 31-Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

Lam. 3:27-29

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A SPIRITUAL LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

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."

After Jeremiah but before Ezekiel is Lamentations

Lamentations 3:27-29

It is good for a man to **bear the yoke** in his youth. **:28 Let him sit alone** and **keep silent**, Because God has laid it on him; **:29 Let him put his mouth in the dust** – For there may yet be hope.

Who and what we become, from year to year, is often decided in the days of our youth. Our lack of character or our strength is usually developed.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now your Creator **in the days of your youth**, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

**THERE ARE CERTAIN LAWS THAT YOU
AND I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO CHANGE.**

Atrophy – the second law of thermodynamics, no matter how hard we may try,
we will never defeat it...

But For The Disciplined Christian, It's Different

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.

Whoever you are today and whatever you're living out
today,
Is a result of something or someone in your life that has
influenced you.

In all of our lives, others have had
input regarding the shaping and forming of who we are..

These influences have created certain disciplines in our lives.

Example: **My dad** raised us having a waterfall and birds - so...
My mom would always have the windows wide open - so...

There are disciplines that become habits. There are
disciplines that are learned, but inevitably - the goal
is to have the disciplines in our lives be as
second nature - our new way of life...

Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

**Now That We're Christians - Our Lives Are Being
Recreated.**

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE'S...
THE DISCIPLINE OF DEPENDABILITY

1. Training our new heart

It's Been Well Said That **"The Heart is The Great Fundamental."**

Webster's 1828

Dependability, is the act of loyalty, reliability, steadfastness.
Webster adds, "as in a dependable friendship."

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

When we talk about

THE DISCIPLINES OF DEPENDABILITY

We're talking about a character that is "Installed" or "Imputed"
into the heart of a man or woman – *only after much experience...*

I want to stress, this "new heart" reality that we now have.
We needed a change at the core of our being;

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is **deceitful** above all things, And **desperately** wicked; Who can know it?"

Psalms 14:1

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

This is Why We Must Be Born Again – Love Jesus!

Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone
out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we
have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. **:17**
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.

>>>>>>> This Newness will Equal Dependability <<<<<<<
“Can you depend on me? Can I depend on you?”

1 Corinthians 15:57-58

But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. :58
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast**, immovable, always abounding in the
work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Dependability is proven thru the Difficult Times of Life

2 Corinthians 1:7

And our hope for you *is* **steadfast**, because we know that as you are partakers of the
sufferings, so also *you will partake* of the consolation.

Heart Maintenance is Required Daily as a Christian

Hebrews 3:14

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence
steadfast to the end,

Because He is Steadfast – We Can Be Steadfast

Hebrews 6:18-19

know this... that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we
might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set
before us. :19 This hope we have **as an anchor** of the soul, both sure and **steadfast**,
and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

“as an anchor of the soul, both sure and **steadfast”**

What are you to do when the bottom drops out of your life?

When do you need an anchor?

Acts 13:22

“...He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, “I
have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’

But How Do I Train My New Heart ?

Begin These Disciplines For Your Heart.

(1) Make sure you have one (2) Do everything you can to feed
your heart (3) Teach it to praise and worship (4) Accept the man
or woman that He has made you (5) Fellowship with those that are
stronger than you (6) Do that thing faithfully (7) Guard your
heart with all diligence (8) Find a quiet place to listen (9)
Learn to meditate in His word (10) Pray into your heart what
He’s teaching you day by day.

Romans 10:8-10

But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: :9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE’S... THE DISCIPLINE OF DEPENDABILITY

2. Exercising our new body

Our Bodies are Pretty Amazing Things

According to the Lord – they’re perfect tools to accomplish what He wants done –
(I would have made us more...)

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. :25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. :26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. :27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

“The Spiritual “Aspect” of Our Physical Bodies”

1 Corinthians 6:15-18

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! :16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” :17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. :18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Galatians 6:15-17

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. :16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. :17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the “**stigma**” marks of the Lord Jesus.

sti÷gma stigma, stig´-mah;

the scars, bruises, wounds, disfigurements. the recognition of ownership

Revelation 3:12

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. **I will write on him** the name of My God **and** the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And **I will write on him My new name.**

How Do I Exercise My New Body ?

Begin These Disciplines For Your Body.

(1) Remind your body of its proper place (2) Don't be so quick to obey its first impulse (3) You will not die if you don't get that thing (4) Take physical care of yourself for Him (5) Enslave your body to the things of God (6) Do that thing faithfully (7) Receive His virginity for your body (8) Capture your moods and emotions (9) Expose yourself to godly environments (10) Keep a watchful eye out for snares.

IN THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE, THERE'S...

THE DISCIPLINE OF DEPENDABILITY

3. Ordering our new life

Personally, for me, in my life;
this has been and will be the great battle of my life.
Everything that I have ever suffered and or achieved originates
in this great, new struggle in life.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DEPENDABILITY

ORDERING OUR NEW LIFE

Colossians 3:2-5

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **:3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **:4** When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. **:5** Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Romans 7:21-8:1

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. :22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. :23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. :24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? :25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! ¶ So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 6:5-8

For each one shall bear his own load. :6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. :7 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.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. :7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

James 5:7-9

Therefore **(1) be patient**, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. :8 You also be patient. **(2) Establish your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. :9 **(3) Do not complain** against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

So then, like a **farmer**,

Your labor and toil and sweat and your hope for the outcome all the while you're praying, o Lord send us rain.

So then, like an **architect**

You can see what has not yet been created and move in that direction arranging and studying the light and the sound and the look.

So then, like a **parent**

You draw from the good, the bad and the ugly of your life and you make corrections and you make changes and set - before them the things of God.

So How Do I Order My New Life ?

You Begin These Disciplines In Your Life.

(1) Wake up early (2) Make uncomfortable changes (3) No Bible, no prayer, then no food, (4) Ask yourself, "how will this affect my walk with God? (5) Present yourself to Him for whatever He wants (6) Do that thing faithfully (7) Establish yourself in righteousness (8) Obey what you know (9) Trust Him for the outcome. (10) Thank Him in everything.

————— *End of Study* —————