

# 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 DESOLATION

*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;

**Psalm 102:11-12**

**The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage**

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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."

## Psalm 102:11-12

My days *are* like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass. **:12 But You, O LORD, shall endure forever, And the remembrance of Your name to all generations.**

**In this Psalm, the psalmist cries out to God**

in his distress and there he finds his confidence in (1) the sovereign purposes of God and (2) in His unchangeableness. This prayer of the affliction comes from us when we are overwhelmed and we can do nothing else but pour out our complaint before the LORD.

**The Bible says that;**

“we have been created in the image of God - that is, in His moral likeness.

**Genesis 1:26**

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

In a word - what we **think** and **feel** and **desire** for is all a result of good having gone bad. The light being extinguished.

We are a fallen and broken remnant of what we once were.  
(we’re along way from home)

**Genesis 2:17-18**

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” **(note the very next verse) :18** And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

**Desolation and Disillusionment, Fear and Sorrow**

Cannot be separated one from the other. They travel in a pack

No One is Exempt

It doesn’t matter how beautiful or wealthy or powerful or popular

You may be - you will inevitably suffer the invasion of desolation.

**Spiritual desolation** is one of the worst of situations because it attacks the core, the root of our hope –  
**our faith !**

# IT'S IN THOSE LONG AND LONELY DAYS OF SPIRITUAL DRYNESS THAT WE LEARN THE DISCIPLINE OF DESOLATION

## Psalm 102:6-7

I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.  
:7 I lie awake, And I am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DESOLATION

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

### 1.) Will involve **unhappiness**

**The state or situation of being unhappy** actually comes from the outside and it moves into our private lives.

Our "**happiness**" is determined by how we perceive the moment that we're in.

## Psalm 33:12

Blessed (Happy) is the nation whose God is the LORD,

When we're **unhappy** it means we're not seeing clearly, but why are we not seeing clearly?

## We've lost sight of the Lord's Purposes

### Matthew 5:2-12

Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: :3 (Happy) "**Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. :4 (Happy) Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. :5 (Happy) Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. :6 (Happy) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. :7 (Happy) Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. :8 (Happy) Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. :9 (Happy) Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. :10 (Happy) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. :11 (Happy) "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.**

**1.) We fight off Unhappiness** by grabbing His Word and crying out

**Lord Your Bible Says...**

**Psalm 144:15**

**Happy** are the people who are **in such a state**;  
**Happy** are the people whose **God is the LORD!**

That means what he has said will rescue us.

Using this next verse we

**Psalm 84:11**

For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; **The LORD will give grace and glory**;  
**No good thing will He withhold** from those who walk uprightly.

**Romans 8:28**

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,  
to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**THE DISCIPLINE OF DESOLATION**

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**2.) Will involve loneliness**

As Christians, when we're **lonely** it's a pretty good indicator  
that we've neglected our private life with the Lord.

**1 John 1:6-7**

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. :7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Sinful Conduct - "neglect of God" will cause  
Loneliness which drives us away from the Lord

### Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left **your first love**. :5  
Remember therefore from where you have fallen;  
repent and do **the first works**,

**2.) We fight off Loneliness** by grabbing His Word and crying out

### Lord Your Bible Says...

#### Psalm 139:5-6

You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. :6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

**Notice that the Bible has the power to change your condition**

#### Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was **to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart**; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

### David Articulates to Us - His Emotional State

#### Psalm 102:2-3

**Do not hide Your face from me** in the day of my trouble; **Incline Your ear to me**; In the day that I call, answer me speedily. :3 For my days are **consumed like smoke**, And my **bones** are burned **like a hearth**.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF DESOLATION

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**3.) Will involve isolation**

**This is different from loneliness. Isolation** is the result of being lonely over a prolonged period of time. It's a slump that you just sink into with seemingly no way out.

**Listen – I Want to Encourage You**  
**Satan, This Worldly System, Even Your Own Flesh**

Wants to convince you that you're beyond hope and help.

- Why are you in a state of isolation?
- What have you done? What have you not been doing?
- Do you trust Him to help you?

**Psalm 102:6-7**

I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.  
:7 I lie awake, And I am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

When we're **isolated**, we're in danger of being overcome by our "**human thoughts**" and "**earthly advice**".

**One of the Most Powerful Pictures of Isolation**

is when **Adam** and **eve** both had sinned against God, they hid themselves in the bushes, - but were they together hiding, really?

No, They Were Experiencing **Isolation** for the First Time.  
**It's that dark cloud of spiritual desolation with God.**

**Psalm 77:7-9**

Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? :8 Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? :9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies?

**3.) We fight off Isolation by grabbing His Word and crying out**

**Lord Your Bible Says...**

**Romans 8:35**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**Psalm 139:7-9**

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? :8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. :9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Get Alone with Him Personally, Privately.  
Getting back in and among His People. Praise and Worship Him.

**Psalm 34:1-2**

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.  
:2 My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall  
hear *of it* and be glad.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DESOLATION

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**4.) Will involve *grief***

**Psalm 51:3-4**

For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me. :4  
Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—

**If tonight you're hearing the Lord say...** "listen to this message,  
turn back to Me and live. I want to be back in your life – its because  
He wants to wash you.

**1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Jesus' Example *to* Us and *for* Us Is...**

that for our salvation and our liberation from the power of desolation,  
Jesus came and ate of it for us – He drank the poison willingly.

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the  
punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are  
healed. :6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his  
own way; and the LORD has laid on him **the iniquity of us all.**

Consider this – if the front tire of my car rolls into the crosswalk and the fine is \$300.00 bucks – what about the price of SINNING against God’s law?

**Isaiah 53:3**

He is despised and rejected by men, **A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.**

**Matthew 26:38**

Then He said to them, **“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.**

When we’re **grieving**, we’re often overwhelmed by the feelings of hopelessness and confusion.

**Psalm 42:5-7**

Why are you cast down, O my soul? And *why* are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him *For* the help of His countenance. **:6** O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of Hermon, From the Hill Mizar. **:7** Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

**4.) We fight off grief** by *grabbing His Word and crying out*

**Lord Your Bible Says...**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **:4** who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

**Psalm 31:23a-24**

Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD preserves the faithful... **:24** Be of good courage, And **He shall strengthen your heart,** All you who hope in the LORD.

**Matthew 26:38, Isaiah 53:11**

Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” :39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” - Isaiah 53:11 He (the Father) shall see the labor of His soul, (the Son) and be satisfied. (= atonement is made)

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### 5.) Will involve **fear**

When we're **fearful** it means we're not trusting in God to keep His word. We're actually saying that God is failing us.

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid...

**Genesis 15:1**

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

## You Are Secure in Christ Christian

**Psalm 11:1**

In the LORD I take **refuge**. How then can you say to me:  
“Flee like a bird to your mountain.

**(My backyard bird observation and that little sparrow)**

### 5.) We fight off **Fear** by *grabbing His Word and crying out*

## Lord Your Bible Says...

**Matthew 10:29-31**

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. :30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. :31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

**1 John 4:17-18**

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. :18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

**Hebrews 4:12**

For **the word of God** is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**Revelation 19:11-13**

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. :12 His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. :13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God.**

Come Forward For a **Time of,**  
**Dedication & Re-Dedication**

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*End of Study*

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