

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 DETERMINATION

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

Week 17 of a 31-Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

Ephesians 6:13

The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage

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."

Ephesians 6:13-14a

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand **in the evil day**, and having done all, to **stand**. **:14** Stand therefore,

That you may be **able** to
withstand **in the evil day**, and having **done all**,
To **stand**

Philippians 2:12-13

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; **:13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

En-thus-iasm / En-thus-iast / En-thus-iastic

Someone who is filled with the spirit or zeal for a passion or cause. To be filled with enthusiasm of special intercourse with God or revelations from God.

2 Corinthians 4:5-7

For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **:6** For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. **:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DETERMINATION

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

1.) There will always be enough reasons to quit

Sometimes we discover that the thing we're

working on isn't worth finishing, what then? – finish it! - - because the project is more about building us up into something rather than building something.

Organized Sports / Team Sports / Ministry

It's about much more than winning that matters. Don't get me wrong. If you're in a sport, play it to the fullest, beat every opponent and get the prize. But there will come a day when the memories of the victory will fade but those early acts of determination and character building will "cross-over" into your real life.

THERE'S ALWAYS REASONS TO QUIT

1a.) There will always be reasonable reasons to quit

Exodus 4:10-12

Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and slow of tongue." :11 So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD? :12 Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

Jeremiah 1:4-6

Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: :5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." :6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I *am* a youth."

Christian, have you figured this out yet?

That there will never be enough time, or money,
or power, or people or help or

Zechariah 4:10

For who has despised the day of small things?
ah – we do !!!

Count the cost of what you're about to fight for.
(Then fight with all your heart)

THERE'S ALWAYS REASONS TO QUIT

1b.) There will always be emotional reasons to quit

Our Emotions Lie To Us

Numbers 13-14

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **:2** “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.”... **:17** Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, “Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, **:18** and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it *are* strong or weak, few or many;... **:23** Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs.... **:26** Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. **:27** Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. **:28** Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.... **:30** Then **Caleb** quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” **:31** But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.” **:32** And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. **:33** There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and **we were like grasshoppers in our own sight**, (*you look like a grasshopper to me – so do you*) and so we were in their sight.” (*how do they know that?*) **14:1** So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. **:2** And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!... **:24** But My servant Caleb, because he has **a different spirit in him** and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

“**Let us** awaken then, and **evince** a different **spirit**, – a **spirit** that shall inspire the people with confidence in themselves and in **us**, – a **spirit** that will encourage them to persevere in this glorious struggle, until their rights and liberties shall be established on a rock.”

Samuel Adams

EVINCE, - To show in a clear manner; to prove beyond any reasonable doubt; to manifest; to make evident. To be certain and to act certain.

The certainty inspired **Adams** who was religious in nature: He believed that God had intervened on behalf of the United States and would do so as long as its citizens maintained civic virtue. ***“We shall never be abandoned by Heaven while we act worthy of its aid and protection,”***

THERE’S ALWAYS REASONS TO QUIT

1c.) There will always be historical reasons to quit

Jobs Comforters will always be ready to share with you.

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. *(if you were once an ax murderer – keep it to yourself)*. If you were once a :17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, :14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

THE DISCIPLINE OF DETERMINATION

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT’S USABLE TO GOD

2.) There will always be days when we want to quit

THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN WE WANT TO QUIT

2a.) Because we think we see something better

“Determination” Anticipates a Hostile Environment

The Danger of a Lack of Determination

1 Kings 21:1-4

And it came to pass after these things *that* Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. :2 So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it *is* near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money." :3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!" :4 So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

The danger of wanting something God doesn't want you to have is; He just might stop talking to about it – and you'll think His silence is a yes.

Psalm 106:13-15

They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, :14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. :15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN WE WANT TO QUIT

2b.) Because we don't see any good coming out of it

It's the "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" assumption.
But Philip said, "Come and see." - John 1:46

While In Corinth

Acts 18:9

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; :10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." :11 And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Matthew 10:22

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.
But he who endures to the end will be saved.

James 5:10-11b

My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. :11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure.

THERE WILL BE DAYS WHEN WE WANT TO QUIT

2c.) Because we've seen others have quit

Cowardice is one of the most dangerous plagues in warfare, it has been since the beginning. When, in battle a man turns and runs – it creates an instant sense of total fear. When this happens – entire platoons can be killed or defeated.

The Commanders of Our Revolutionary Forces Were Under Direct Orders By General Washington Himself to Shoot any Man that Turned Coward.

**IT WAS BETTER TO SUFFER THE LOSS OF ONE MAN
THEN THE ENTIRE ARMY**

There is a great danger of “developing a habit” for quitting.

Matthew 13:18-23

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: :19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. :20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; :21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. :22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. :23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Your Christian service is not only going to be rewarded in Heaven, but it develops your spiritual backbone here and now.

We need to be Plodders

(1) Where are you in life right now? (2) How is it that you've gotten to this place in life? (3) Will you stay there (4) Are you willing to be determined?

(By the way, if you're blaming others for where you're at, you will most likely never leave that spot you're in – it's a sinkhole)

For good or bad;
There's good reason why we are where we are.

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3.) It's always too soon to quit - always

IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT - ALWAYS

3a.) Because it's not about you getting what you want

It's about doing what's right

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. :8 *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; :9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - :10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. :11

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. :12 So then death is working in us, but life in you.

IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT - ALWAYS

3b.) Because It's not about you knowing what you know

Information is power so let the Lord
"inform" you - it's His perfect
knowledge.

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; :11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; :12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Ephesians 1:6-10

Now 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 :8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence (knowledge), :9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, :10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

IT'S ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT - ALWAYS

3c.) Because It's not about you having your own way

Luke 22:41-43

And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, :42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." :43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. :16 For “*who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?*”
But we have the mind of Christ.

Did you pray about moving to that new city?
Did you seek the Lord before you took that job?
Did you pray about marrying that man or woman?

Then Stay at It – Hang In There – Don’t Quit
You don’t have the right or the authority to quit.

Just one more swing of the pick.
Just one more week at it.
Just one more hour, just a minute or just a second
Just one more try.

If you’ve conditioned yourself to
quit,
you’ll never know victory or success or the
character of endurance.

Surround yourself with people that are Plodders.
When you’re heading down, they’ll point you up

John 4:34-35

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. :35 Do you not say, “There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest”? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

John 17:4

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which
You have given Me to do.

John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" :29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. :30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE DETERMINATION IS
TO MAKE YOUR FINAL DECISION, YOUR JUDGEMENT CALL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

The Biblical Jesus Christ is not the Jesus of The Cults

He's not the Jesus of **Buddhism**
He's not the Jesus of **Hinduism**
He's not the Jesus of **Judaism**
He's not the Jesus of **Islam**
He's not the Jesus of **Jehovah's Witnesses**
He's not the Jesus of **Hollywood**
He's not the Jesus of The **New Age Movement**
He's not the Jesus of **History** or **Discovery Channels**
He's not the Jesus of the **National Geographic**
He's not the Jesus of **Time Magazine** or **Newsweek**
And He's not the Jesus you want to invent for you.

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

End of Study
