

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 DECISION

*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; Jeremiah 42:6

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."

Jeremiah 42:6

Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God... :6b that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God."

God's Guidance in Our lives Guarantees certain,
unchanging
Comforts - we don't have to make mistakes in our
decision making.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DECISION

1. **Be willing to ask for His guidance**

Psalm 32:8-10

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. :**9** Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. :**10** Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

BE WILLING TO ASK FOR HIS GUIDANCE

1a.) **Recognize your limitations**

you and I - we don't know everything,
so be humble and ask the Lord !

asking the Lord for guidance

puts certain things in motion that otherwise would not be there for us.

We can only understand so much – then faith must be applied.

James 4:2

You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain.
You fight and war. Yet you do not have **because you do not ask.**

He is “as a well to us” ...

Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.

Matthew 7:7-8

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. :**8** For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

BE WILLING TO **ASK** FOR HIS GUIDANCE

1b.) Respond in submission

Submission to the Lord

It's a **mid-place** of great power for me. **It causes me** to ask for
"The God thing" to be done in my life.

Luke 11:1-2

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." :2 So He said to them, "**When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done** On earth as it is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

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.

Why do so many Christians make huge mistakes.
(and God always gets blamed for our mistakes)

There is a Disciple Here;

James 1:6-8

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. :7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; :8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

"the Lord Told Me"

"I felt like the Lord wanted me to do this or that"

"I have a peace about it"

"everybody told me it was the best thing to do"

It's Best to Never Have an Agenda when you Pray

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask **amiss**,
that you may spend it on your pleasures.

BE WILLING TO **ASK** FOR HIS GUIDANCE

1c.) **React** from a position of strength - confidence

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Psalm 1:1-2

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; :2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

THE DISCIPLINES OF DECISION

2. **Be willing to wait** for His guidance

2a.) Waiting **favors** our cause – so be patient

Habakkuk 2:3

For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

**We cannot out-wait the Lord.
We can never make a mistake by waiting...**
(but once He has spoken – go for it)

Psalm 37:7

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

BE WILLING TO **WAIT** FOR HIS GUIDANCE

2b.) Waiting **disciplines** our emotions – so be Biblical

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **:14** as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; **:15** but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, **:16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Again- James 1:6-8

"...for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. **:7** For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; **:8** *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

BE WILLING TO WAIT FOR HIS GUIDANCE

2c.) Waiting brings us His joy – be resting

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Jeremiah 42:6-7

Whether *it is* pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God... that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God." **:7** And it happened **after ten days** that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 30:18

Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD *is* a God of justice; Blessed *are* all those who wait for Him.

Isaiah 49:23c

Then you will know that I *am* the LORD, For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful **in its time**.
Also He has put eternity in their hearts,

THE DISCIPLINES OF DECISION

3. Be willing to obey His guidance

3a.) He knows what's right

Jeremiah 42:3

The LORD your God will show us the way in which we should walk and the thing **we should do.**"

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and **know** that I am God;

Did You Know That I Will Give God Your Report Card ?

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:24

Greet all those who rule over you...

BE WILLING TO OBEY HIS GUIDANCE

3b.) He wants what's best

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, ***what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?***

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.

BE WILLING TO **OBEY** HIS GUIDANCE

3c.) He **does** what's good

Romans 8:28-29

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. :29 For whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son..."

Obedience is Developed thru Listening & Choosing

Psalm 85:8

I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly.

James 3:13-18

Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom. :14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. :15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. :16 For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. :17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. :18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Dangers of Undisciplined Decisions

Proverbs 1:28-32

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. :29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, :30 They would have none of my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke. :31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. :32 For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them;

The Blessing of a Disciplined Decision

Proverbs 1:33-2:1-9

But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.” **2:1**

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, **:2** So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding; **:3** Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding, **:4** If you seek her as silver, And search for her as *for* hidden treasures; **:5** Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God. **:6** For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding; **:7** He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly; **:8** He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. **:9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

sin prevents us from receiving His answers. disobedience short circuits our decision making process...

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. **:14** For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

- (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 and our offerings to Him

_____ *End of Study* _____