

Reaching our “Full” Potential *The Discipline of being in the Word of God*



I had the good fortune of being around several men and women who were not only very wise but also made a significant impact with their life. One man was particularly wise and very discerning as well as a quality leader. I would sit and listen, watch him at meetings and marvel at his ability to dissect through difficult issues and cut to the heart of situations to resolve conflicts as well as develop strategy for the days ahead. I loved being around Carl Goltz and seeing his wisdom and insight and learned that the source of all this was “The Word of God.” Carl was a man of the Word, he disciplined himself each day to make sure that he was not only in God’s Word but God’s Word was in him.

-Friends we are studying in this series about “Reaching our “Full” Potential. To reach our full potential as Christ followers we need to “Discipline ourselves for the purpose of Godliness (1 Tim. 4:7). No one can do this for us, it doesn’t happen any other way than each of us understanding that it is our responsibility as we mature to grow in “silence and solitude, fasting and confession. We have learned about the high priority of both public and private worship.

-Today we want to examine what it means to be disciplined in being in the Word of God.

-Why is being disciplined so hard? We are self centered beings and do not want to bring our bodies, minds or spirits under control but it is so essential if we are going to grow in Godlikeness.

-“The Alternative to discipline is disaster” the great preacher Vance Havner once said.

-“No spiritual discipline is more important than the intake of God’s Word. Nothing can Substitute for it. There is simply no healthy Christian life apart from a diet of the milk And meat of scripture.” **Listen to some of the reasons:**

1. In the Bible God tells us about Himself and especially about Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God.
2. The Bible unfolds the Law of God to us and shows us how we’ve all broken it.



3. In the Word we learn how Christ died as a sinless, willing Substitute for breakers of God's law and how we must repent and believe in Him to be right with God.

4. In the Bible we learn the ways and will of the Lord and how we are to live each day for His glory.

There is no other way to understand these unless we are in the Word of God on a consistent basis.

Q. What keeps us from being in the Word? I love working with men....simple question...

a. Want to's.....they have to change

b. Don't make time for it....We make time to do what we want to do! Sheets are too heavy

c. Don't see the benefit of it....life and family suffering because they were not in the word

-Many years ago while studying in a Navigator's Bible study called 2:7 we looked at how

to gain a grasp on the Word of God: Five ways we are to grasp it: (PPT)

-Hear---Read---Study---Memorize---Meditate (next week last three)

1. Hear

-**Luke 11:28**, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." The purpose of all methods of Bible intake is obedience to what God says and the development of Christ likeness.

-**Romans 10:17**, "Consequently, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

Hearing--church, CD, on the radio, TV. A heart prepared to hear the Word of God is a growing heart. Samuel as a young boy, "Speak Lord for Thy servant is listening." Hearing is a discipline to be cultivated.

2. Reading



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-USA Today reported that 11 percent of American's read the Bible every day. More than half read it less than once a month or never at all.

-Barna Research Group "among those claiming to be "Born Again Christians" stated that 18% read the Bible every day. 23% say they never read the Word of God...

-Matt. 4:4, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

-2 Tim. 3:16, "All scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good deed."

-"If you want to be changed, if you want to become more like Jesus Christ, discipline yourself to read the Bible." **Three very practical suggestions for consistent success in Bible reading:**

- 1. Find the best time**—the sharpest you are in the day....for me, early AM (**Commit to it!**)
- 2. Find a Bible-reading plan**
- 3. Find at least one word, phrase or verse** to meditate on each time you read..Put on a card

Two excellent questions as you read from the Apostle Paul's life to look for:

-Who are you God? What do you learn about God from the text

-What would you have me to do?

-How much should you read? A little bit of Psalms, a little bit of Proverbs and a little bit of the NT, then expand into the OT.

Marking pencils: (Colors that correspond to your feelings about each)

1. Is there sin to confess?
2. Is there promises to claim?
3. Is there an attitude I need to change?
4. Is there a command to obey?
5. Is there an example to follow?
6. Is there a truth to stand on?
7. Is there an error to avoid?
8. Is there a prayer to pray?
9. Is there something to praise God for?



1 Cor. 8:1, “Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.” Don’t tell me you know the Word, show me...People have a lot of head knowledge....Heart application is so needed

1 Chronicles 16:11, “Seek the Lord and His Strength, seek His face continually.” You need
Spiritual food for spiritual strength.

Joshua 1:8: For success to be truly ours....M/W of the Word!

Psalms 1:1-3: Blessing upon a life, comes from being in His word!

Col. 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you.”

We are not going to have much success dealing with the battles of life if we are starving ourselves spiritually. That’s why we need to feed on the Word of God.