

THE DISCIPLINES OF GODLY PEOPLE–PART 7
FOUR FINAL DISCIPLINES
VARIOUS SCRIPTURE

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Introduction

Thus far over the past six messages we have taken a look at **ELEVEN IMPORTANT DISCIPLINES** that need to be in our lives if we are to be a Godly people. Tonight we bring this series to an end as we look at:

“FOUR FINAL DISCIPLINES”

XII. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF GOOD WORKS!

A. Paul Shared This Vital Truth!

1. **With The Ephesian Church. (*Ephesians 2:8-10*)**

2. **With The Corinthian Church.**

2 Corinthians 9:8–“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”

3. **With The Colossian Church.**

Colossians 1:10–“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

4. **With Titus, The Pastor At Crete. (*Titus 3:8*)**

B. Jesus Commanded This Truth!

Jesus talked about it in terms of letting our light shine!

Matthew 5:16–“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

We need the **DISCIPLINE OF GOOD WORKS** in our lives, **NOT TO GAIN OUR SALVATION**, but rather **BECAUSE OF OUR SALVATION!**

Think of it as part of our life that witnesses to Jesus Christ in our life because that is what it is supposed to be about!

Galatians 2:20–“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:...”

C. Biblical Examples Of This Truth:

Tabitha (Dorcas)–Acts 9:36–*“This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.”*

Lydia–as a newly Baptized Believer told Paul and Silas Acts 16:15–*“Come into in my house and abide there”*

The Philippian Jailer–As a new Believer even before he was Baptized in *Acts 16:33-34* washed Paul and Silas's stripes and after he was baptized he fed them.

For those of us who are saved, good deeds should be our heart’s response of gratitude for the gift of God’s grace!

1 Peter 2:12–“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

We who are saved must determine to develop the DISCIPLINE OF GOOD WORKS. Paul wrote in Galatians 6:10:

Galatians 6:10–“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

The time that God has given to us on this earth as Believers is to be filled with good deeds!

It doesn’t matter that some folks will be ungrateful!

(Example: Jesus healing the ten lepers and only one returned to say thanks!)

It doesn’t matter that some folks will look to take advantage of us!

Many have taken advantage of me over the years as I’ve tried to be a help to them. They will have to answer to God for that! But I will have to answer to the LORD if I let that hinder me from doing good works!

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1 Corinthians 15:10–“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

There is no contradiction between grace and hard work! We need God’s grace as we make the effort to do God’s will! And as we work hard and put forth the effort, He always gives us the grace we need!

WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF GOOD WORKS!

XIII. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF GIVING!

COVETOUSNESS and MATERIALISM in one’s life work contrary to this DISCIPLINE OF GIVING! What I mean by that is that when one’s life that is full of **COVETOUSNESS** and **MATERIALISM** they are more about **GETTING** than **GIVING!**

Sadly, I see COVETOUSNESS and MATERIALISM having more and more power over many professing Believers’ lives! (i.e. Too many are more interested in getting **more things, bigger things, and better things**, than they are in **serving God with what God has blessed them with!**)

i.e. This **attitude of MATERIALISM** shows itself in **lives that are lived SELFISHLY!**

We know that **COVETOUSNESS** and **MATERIALISM** is a big part of our culture, So, how can we who are saved escape the power or draw of **COVETOUSNESS** and **MATERIALISM?**

It begins with developing the **DISCIPLINE OF CONTENTMENT** that we spoke of a few weeks back! I’m not going to rehash that but let me give you something additional.

It continues when we **GIVE FROM A HEART OVERFLOWING WITH GOD’S GRACE!**

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Example: The believers in Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8:5
GRACE GIVING begins with FIRST GIVING OURSELVES TO THE LORD.

If we think about it, it just makes sense! If God has US, then He has everything about us including **ALL** of the things we own and **ALL** the money He has allowed us to have and accumulate!

Giving disarms the power of money in our lives!

How should we give:

A. The Bible Calls On Us To Give Regularly–The Tith!

Malachi 3:10–“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

1 Corinthians 16:2–“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”

B. The Bible Calls On Us To Give Responsively–From The Heart! (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Acts 20:35–“35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

GOOD WORKS... GIVING...

XIV. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF FAITHFUL CHURCH ATTENDANCE!

Hebrews 10:24-25–“24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

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Some will argue *“You don’t have to go to Church to be a Believer,”*

True, but let me counter with this—*“You don’t have to go home to be married either, but it is NOT going to be good for your marital relationship if you don’t!”*

In either case you are going to have a very poor relationship with the one you are supposed to love!

We will never be what we ought to be for God and our families will never become spiritually mature without a commitment to be faithful to the local Church.

God wants us to find a good local Church, join it, and then commit ourselves wholeheartedly to making it what Christ would have it!

Our participation should include giving of our time, our talents (which includes our expertise and creativity), and our treasure to the glory of God!

XV. WE NEED THE DISCIPLINE OF BEING A FAITHFUL WITNESS FOR CHRIST!

I’m just going to let the LORD speak on this for us!

Matthew 28:19-20—“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Mark 16:15—“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Acts 1:8—“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

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Conclusion

As we come to the close of this series of messages, we need to see that these **FIFTEEN DISCIPLINES** that we’ve covered need to be in our lives if we are going to live lives pleasing to the Lord.

May I remind you that it all begins with having the **DISCIPLINE OF THE GOSPEL** in your life!

Have you submitted yourself to the righteousness of God or are you going about trying to establish your own righteousness?

The righteousness of God is the Lord Jesus Christ and He gave His life and shed His blood for our sins!

But you must first repent of your sins and submit yourself to Him. If you do that, He promises to give you eternal life and abundant life.

That abundant life is found as God brings these other **DISCIPLINES** into your life so that you can live Godly.

Today we’ve talked about the **DISCIPLINES OF GOOD WORKS, GIVING, FAITHFUL CHURCH ATTENDANCE, and BEING A FAITHFUL WITNESS!**

Are there any of these areas you need to work on?

What has the Holy Spirit of God pricked your heart with today? Be obedient to Him right now!