

THE DAILY DISCIPLINE OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE PART I

INTRODUCTION

- *This month we will be exploring the subject of spiritual disciplines.*
- *We will be looking at the question of how we build a spiritual life that will sustain us in a high place in God.*
- *What are the daily habits, that keep us in a place of grace that will overflow in us, and others?*

- *We are here to live a life that has been captured and captivated by the nature of God*

- *God is glorious; Life is meant to be glorious; Jesus deserves a glorious bride*

PS 18

*For You will light my lamp;
The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.
29 For by You I can [g]run against a troop,
By my God I can leap over a wall.
30 As for God, His way is perfect;
The word of the Lord is [h]proven;
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.
31 For who is God, except the Lord?
And who is a rock, except our God?
32 IT IS GOD WHO ARMS ME WITH STRENGTH,
AND MAKES MY WAY PERFECT.
33 HE MAKES MY FEET LIKE THE FEET OF DEER,
AND SETS ME ON MY HIGH PLACES.
34 He teaches my hands to make war,
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.
35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;
Your right hand has held me up,
Your gentleness has made me great.
36 You enlarged my path under me,
So my feet did not slip.
37 I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them;
Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.
38 I have wounded them,
So that they could not rise;
They have fallen under my feet.
39 For You have armed me with strength for the battle;
You have [i]subdued under me those who rose up against me.
40 You have also given me the necks of my enemies,
So that I destroyed those who hated me.
41 They cried out, but there was none to save;*

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*Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them.
42 Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind;
I cast them out like dirt in the streets.
43 You have delivered me from the strivings of the people;
You have made me the head of the [j]nations;
A people I have not known shall serve me.
44 As soon as they hear of me they obey me;
The foreigners [k]submit to me.
45 The foreigners fade away,
And come frightened from their hideouts.
46 The Lord lives!
Blessed be my Rock!
Let the God of my salvation be exalted.
47 It is God who avenges me,
And subdues the peoples under me;
48 He delivers me from my enemies.
You also lift me up above those who rise against me;
You have delivered me from the violent man.
49 Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the [l]Gentiles,
And sing praises to Your name.
50 Great deliverance He gives to His king,
And shows mercy to His anointed,
To David and his [m]descendants forevermore.*

I. A VISION OF THE LIFE GOD HAS CALLED US TO.

- The Holy Spirit is teaching the church to live in the resurrection life of Jesus [now]*
- Jesus gave us his life , that we may live his life now*
- God has called us to a life of fellowship and glory.*
- It is vital that we have a vision of the life that God has called and provided for us.*
- If we do not hold that vision, then our vision will come from our past or the lives of others.*

II. HONESTLY LOOKING AT THE LIFE WE ARE LEADING

- Everyone will stand naked before the perfect judgment of God. Wise men run to that judgment now.*

Phil 3

12 Not that I have already attained,[c] or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have [d]apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching

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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.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are MATURE, have this MIND; and if in anything you THINK otherwise, God will REVEAL even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the DEGREE that we have already [e]ATTAINED, let us WALK by the same [f]rule, let us be of the SAME MIND.

- *The dangerous trap of comparing ourselves to others*
- *The dangers of determining our present and future by our past.*
- *The only standard for our lives is the high call of God in Christ Jesus*

III. HOW WE GRAPPLE WITH THE REALITY OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES

There are various lenses through which we deal with the difference between where we are and where we should be:

*Walking away
Guilt and Shame
Believing that this is God's will
End Times Answers
Unbiblical theology of suffering
Dead works
Charismatic answers.*

IV. THE PRACTICE OF THIS NEW LIFE

- *Each day is the measure of Life.*
- *A captivated heart is the very essence of spirituality and a life before God*
- *It is vital that we understand the process of change and definition:*
 - *Choices*
 - *Habits*
 - *Character*
 - *Lifestyle*

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In the coming weeks we are going to explore the practical process of transformation and it begins with the daily habits of a spirit filled life.

- Over church history many great authors and thinkers have explored the themes of christian disciplines:

- St. Anthony and the Desert Fathers*
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*
- Thomas Merton*
- Teresa of Ávila,*
- John of the Cross,*
- Julian of Norwich*
- Dallas Willard*
- Richard Forester*
- Henri Nouwen*

- The challenge with most of this branch of teaching is that it excludes any revelation of the new creation, the death of the old man and the finished work of the cross.

In this church we make much of a new creation theology.

In most churches, the failing would be a lack of knowledge or revelation about the subject.

In a setting like this, a biggest struggle is the practice and application of the truth.

- You can determine the strength of your inner man by measuring how much opposition it takes to discourage you.

V. LEGALISM VS. GRACE

TITUS 2

11 For the GRACE of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL MEN, 12 TEACHING us that, DENYING ungodliness and worldly lusts, WE SHOULD LIVE soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 LOOKING for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, ZEALOUS FOR GOOD WORKS.

15 SPEAK THESE THINGS, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

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- *The depth of your spiritual life is determined by only two things [and satan is not one of them.]*
- *The baseline truth is:*
- *The legalist says if I do these things God will bless me.*
- *Grace says God has already done these things, and I need to practice them.*
- *In the coming weeks we will look at the disciplines, the habits of the Kingdom in 3 sections:*

INWARD DISCIPLINES

Prayer
Worship
Word.
Study
Meditation
Proclamation.
Fasting.
Tongues.

OUTWARD DISCIPLINES

Simplicity.
Solitude.
Submission.
Service.
Humility.

CORPORATE DISCIPLINES

Confession.
Worship.
Guidance.
Celebration.

CONCLUSION

The 3 fold discipline of communion