



Inner Growth - Discipline

He openeth also their ear to discipline and commandeth that they return from iniquity.

Job 36:10

Decisions - Joel 3:14

Ideas - Job 32:10, 32:17

Speaking - Proverbs 13 3

Correction - Proverbs 3;11, 15:10

Idols - 1 John 5:21

Patience - Luke 21:19

Influence - 1 Corinthians 15:33

News - Proverbs 25;25, Psalm 112:7

Ears - 2 Timothy 4:3-4

A disciplinary hearing is a meeting between two sides to discuss an allegation of gross misconduct with another or any other behavior that merits disciplinary action. Today, the public may have seen or heard of someone receiving punishment for their conduct, whether in the news through social media or on other social platforms. However, such a penalty could have been different if the individual received the discipline needed to avoid such circumstances. Every mature person knows the law within their country: at least most of us.

Discipline is the difference between an individual being free or bound, safe or in danger, or perhaps alive or a casualty. Especially for a believer, our conduct should be similar to the Son of God, righteous and going about doing good. However, discipline begins with us having a relationship with God, who will lead us in spirit and truth. On the other hand, those governed by other means may have to do something not right, which

could lead to disciplinary action. However, discipline starts with the individual knowing right from wrong: while people with children should guide them on the correct path to avoid negative results.

Discipline is in Job thirty-six, verse ten, where Elihu, one of Job's friends, declares his opinion from chapter thirty-two through to the end of thirty-seven about the suffering that he views as far less penal than disciplinary and restorative. The verse itself, even though from Elihu's expression, indicates that God expects his people through discipline to live accordingly, to "go and sin no more." The truth is an undisciplined person will be more susceptible to commit wrongdoing, while a well-trained individual is less likely but still capable. Believers and followers of Christ must follow God's Word in obedience which is discipline. After all, the Bible is recognized and stands for "**Basic instructions before leaving earth.**"

Discipline involves making choices that could determine the direction of life. In Second Peter, chapter one, verse ten gives insight into the outcome of our selection. "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give the diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Believers living for Christ should include Him in all matters to get the best advice in making the right choices. Living without Christlike qualities makes us ineffective and unproductive in our knowledge: Such people have become spiritually blind unbelievers.

In the Old Testament, Jacob made some decisions that altered the course of his life. Esau's brother uses deception to trick his father into thinking he is Esau. Earlier, Jacob asks for his older brother's birthright using sod pottage for him to make the exchange. It is interesting to note that Jacob's name means supplanter. In other words, substitute: which is interesting, with the two incidents against Esau.

The verse in fourteen of Joel chapter three and the following verses, instead of expressly narrating the execution of the Divine command, present a picture of it. In one part, the prophet sees in vision and shows us pictorially the multitudes of the nations pouring on in one continuous stream into the fatal

valley. In another compartment of the picture, Jehovah is seen in the awfulness of his majesty and the fearfulness of his judgments on the wicked, while He is a Refuge and Strength for his people. These multitudes are the tumultuous masses with the hum of the large group: a legion even apart from that noise.

Discipline is not to entertain ideas that may come from our minds by the enemy. Elihu, one of Job's close friends, was talking about what suddenly happened to him. Ideas usually form when a friend, family, co-worker, or even a stranger gives advice, and things begin to take shape. However, believers should not consider these beliefs because they are not from God. These ideas derive from opinions that will put people in jeopardy instead of experiencing liberty.

Eve in the garden of Eden did not have to eat the apple with Adam. The serpent in Genesis chapter three, which the devil uses, forms ideas in her head in verses one, four, and five. After the first response in verse one, Eve reiterates the instructions toward the serpent. Then the snake comes with another gesture, forming more ideas. Again, the fifth verse creates more concepts making her reconsider.

Discipline requires us to keep our mouths from speaking something to defame our character. Today, it is so easy to put ourselves into trouble. Talking about the wrong thing to someone at the wrong time could create bad results. Nowadays, many stores and companies put up signs at service desks or voicemail messages that say, "any abusive language and behavior towards the staff will not receive service." Therefore, disciplining the tongue will save a lot of potential problems.

The Israelites received help from God through His servant in the quest to free them from the bondage of the Egyptians. However, once free, they did not realize they would experience a lack of resources or necessities out in the wilderness. In Exodus sixteen, verses one through three, "And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel

murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Discipline sometimes requires correction. There are criminals and ex-convicts who, unfortunately, get in trouble with the law and pay the consequences. Some learn from their mistakes, while others do not and will need help. However, this is where discipline is in need. Today many do not get the proper training which is discipline. When they were young, their life situation could have been different.

Jonah, in chapter one, does not respond to the word of the Lord to go to Nineveh but decides to go to Tarshish instead. However, God disciplines him, and he winds up in the belly of a fish. Jonah realizes his wrongdoing and prays to the Lord, who grants him another opportunity to go to Nineveh. Jonah follows through and helps Nineveh and the King as instructed by God. Still, the servant of God was angry in verses one through three.

Discipline involves abstaining from idols. This mention of deities could refer to physical idols people worshiped and anything that came as a higher priority than Christ. This final warning to stay away from these images is a reminder that only Christ's people should be serving Him. The false teachings they battled led back to the very gods they had left to follow Jesus. They were to keep themselves "from idols" and remain focused on Jesus as the Son of God.

If believers have come to the true God through Christ, they have to take care they do not lose this eternal and highest good by giving themselves up to any vain idol. An idol is a hero, icon, or superstar. What we greatly admire will eventually become a distraction. For a believer, this kind of attention will draw away our time for God. Similar to a person having a spouse and a girlfriend or boyfriend on the side: two is a pair, and three is a crowd. Little children, keeping yourselves from idols have two meanings. First, for the kids who are young and influential, you give them

something negative to play and spend time with will eventually make them grow up to think that it is okay. What young people learn and receive no discipline toward whatever they do will believe it's a way of life. They would defend themselves and say, "how come nobody didn't tell me it was wrong?" Second, children are also the people of God. Believers have to be cautious with the things and people around them. The amount of time spent on whatever should not interfere with their relationship with God. He knows if our hearts have been carried away with something of the world. On the other hand, believers understand if they have been straying away from God too.

Discipline requires patience. Quiet, brave composure in all difficulty, perplexity, and danger, was the attitude pressed upon the believers of the first days by the inspired teachers. Self-control is self-possession. We do not own ourselves as long as any weakness in flesh, sense, or spirit can gain dominion over us and hinder us from doing what we know to be just. We are not our masters, then. We never own ourselves until we have given up owning and yielded ourselves to the Lord, who gives us back saints to ourselves.

In the book of Job, he lost so much in a short period that his wife questions him in chapter nine, verse two. Then said Job's wife unto him, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die. Job's response, "But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this, Job did not sin with his lips."

Discipline requires avoiding negative influences. That would mean undisciplined people with no boundaries who live in a way to hurt others instead of helping, making trouble in the community. Having evil communications with them is being in contact or companionship will eventually contaminate those who desire to stay disciplined. The danger with people of that nature is their lifestyle has been that way for a while, and it will slowly wear on a person if they dwell with them. Contact with evil-minded people, or the close friendship and conversation of those who hold erroneous

opinions and are impure in their lives, tends to corrupt the morals and the heart of others. An example of evil communication is the man of God from Judah in First Kings chapter thirteen. The Lord sends him to prophesy against King Jeroboam of Israel. The reaction of the King was to seize the man of God, but suddenly, something went wrong with his hand in verse four of the chapter. King Jeroboam then asks for prayer from the same man of God and receives a miracle. The King tries to reward him, as in verse seven, but he refuses due to an oath he receives in the ninth stanza. The miracle spread throughout the region, where an old prophet heard about it and decided to find the man of God from Judah. The prophet went after him and found him under the oak tree. The old prophet asks the man of God to come with him to eat and drink. However, the man of God from Judah refuses and states to the old prophet what God said as he did to King Jeroboam. The old prophet reveals to the man of God that he is a prophet and tells him, "and an angel spake unto me by the word of the LORD, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water."

The situation with the old prophet and the man of God from Judah is unique. The man of God follows the oath when he encounters King Jeroboam but does not with the old prophet because he believes what he said even though God told him. Eventually, it was a lie, and the man of God fell for it in more ways than one, where a lion comes out along his way and destroys him, as in verse twenty-four of the same chapter thirteen.

Many would examine the situation as unfair because the old prophet deceives the man of God. Today many people who attend church and do not listen to the Word of God or do not have a close relationship with Him can easily be influenced by false prophets that could lead them down the wrong path. Some believers can identify an imposter, but some fall into the deception of fraudsters that lurk around society today.

Discipline is to remain the same after receiving good or bad news. Few people can handle situations like these, and for believers comes with help from the Lord. People get good or bad news on any given day. The excellent

story is something nice like a raise or bonus, an invitation to an event, or receiving a gift. However, some would be excited and get carried away, which could cause others to be envious or intentionally hurt others.

On the other hand, most people experience disappointing news and have a tough time staying disciplined throughout the ordeal. Believers should look to Jesus, pray over everything, and not worry about anything. However, it is easily said than done: they still have to do it. Others find an outlet to momentarily take a timeout from their situation, only to encounter the same problem later.

Discipline involves receiving sound doctrine. First, people would grow tired of the true gospel and reject it. Instead, they would turn in other directions, looking to replace healthy teaching. The soft ear approach would be a popular choice when the gospel message begins with a humbling, challenging thought: we are imperfect and in need of saving. Second, instead of following godly teachers, people would desire to follow teachers who told them what they liked to hear rather than what was true. The idea of "itching ears" may be twitching or moving ears that want something different from the traditional, pure gospel message.

Discipline involves a variety of things from us. To have the opportunity to remain steadfast when temptation comes our way. Not allow a situation to overwhelm us but trust and depend on God to carry us through each one that may come: good or bad. For believers, the challenge is not to sin by rebelling or complaining but enduring and looking to the Saviour, who is the author and finisher of our faith.