

Meditations on Discipline

1 Co 9:24-25 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Life Requires discipline

Titus 3:1-7 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

We cannot achieve the Christian Life by means of our effort

(Christianity is not self help, self empowerment)

The Christian life is about Christ, and his work in us

John 15:1-5 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

The effort in the Christian life is to put ourselves in a spot so God can work.

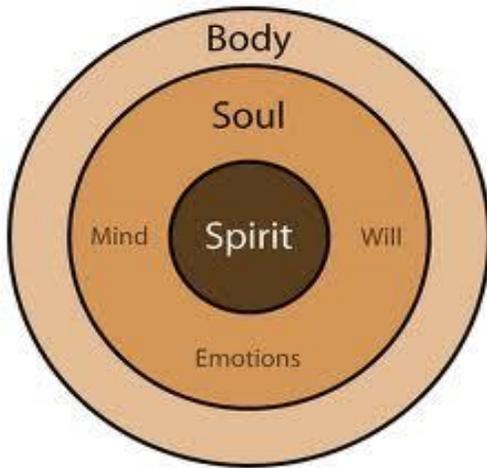
Let him be our guide, our strength, our sufficiency, our source

Not becoming stronger but learning to surrender, rely, trust, follow, respond to, walk with, unite with, enjoy, connect with, live in his power

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

One discipline is the conscience effort of our thoughts or meditation

Thoughts to Meditate On



For further Study:

Ephesians 2

Romans 8:1-11

John 3:1-21

Colossians 2:13-3:1

Galatians 5:16-26

Isaiah 26:3-4 You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
Trust in the Lord forever,
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

2 Corinthians 1:9-10 Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

John 3:30 [John the Baptist speaking about Jesus] He must increase, but I must decrease.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

Proverbs 21:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

Philippians 1:9-11 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Take this as the secret of Christ's life in you: His Spirit dwells in your innermost spirit. Meditate on it, believe in it, and remember it until this glorious truth produces within you a holy fear and wonderment that the Holy Spirit indeed abides in you.

-Watchman Nee

Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved.

Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full.

Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong.

Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able.

Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious.

How meaningful are the words, "in Christ."

-Watchman Nee