

Topic: Disciplines of the Spirit

Biblical Theme: ". . . give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all." I Timothy 4:15.

Point of Discussion: Because Christianity declares to produce a "product" (righteousness, love, holiness, power, transformation) the Christian worker must be an example of this "product." We may not live with reservation in this area of life.

Definition of Topic: Spiritual discipline is the honest acknowledgment and honest application of personal conviction.

I. The Christian Worker must be Honest with Himself.

A. He must face and accept the inexorable demand of Truth, Matt. 5:14-16; 6:24; John 8:32; 14:6; Ephesians 6:14.

B. He must be actively engaged in relating Truth to the problems in his own life, Matthew 28:18-20; John 7:17; I Thess. 1.

II. The Christian Worker must be Honestly Involved with God as a "Person."

A. He must give evidence of being God-like in character and deportment, I Peter 1:15.

1. God is Truth – we may not pretend.
2. God is Love – we may not be selfish.
3. God is Holiness – we may not be sensual.

B. He must give evidence of being in fellowship with God, I Cor. 1:9.

C. He must give evidence of worshipping God, John 4:23,24.

D. He must give evidence of witnessing to God, Acts 1:8.

III. The Christian Worker must be Honestly Involved with the Historical Deeds of God.

A. In the Crucifixion a provision has been made for spiritual cleansing, Rom.6:6.

1. We must give evidence of some progress in spiritual cleansing.
2. We may not live as though the Crucifixion did not happen.
 - a. Because it did happen.
 - b. Because the Crucifixion is an expression of God's will concerning the sinful manifestation of the old nature.
 - c. Because we died in the Crucifixion.
 - d. Because of the cleansing provided in the Crucifixion.
 - e. Because the Crucifixion structures the nature and content of Christianity.

- B. In the Resurrection a provision has been made for Spiritual enablement, Rom. 6:4
 - 1. We must give evidence of some progress in spiritual attainment.
 - 2. We may not live as though the Resurrection did not happen, (see III, a-e)
- C. In the Ascension a provision has been made for spiritual deliverance, Eph. 1:17ff.
 - 1. We must give evidence of some progress in this deliverance.
 - 2. We may not live as though the Ascension did not happen.
- D. In the Day of Pentecost a provision has been made for a daily anointing, Eph. 5:18.
 - 1. We must give evidence of some progress in this anointing.
 - 2. We may not live as though the Day of Pentecost did not happen.

IV. The Christian Worker must be Honestly Involved with the Word of God.

- A. He must accept the Word of God as his final authority, I Thess. 2:13.
- B. He must "seek" the Word of God, I Peter 2:2.
- C. He must "mix the Word of God with faith," Hebrews 4:1-3.
- D. He must obey the Word of God in love, I John 5:3.

Conclusion.

- A. We may not avoid this involvement with God, His work, and His Word by the "dodge" of legalism, asceticism, emotionalism, or by any other pious subterfuge.
- B. The promised result is "profit."