

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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THE DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

John 8 / Psalm 19

The word disciple comes from the root word *discipline*. But we don't like discipline, do we? We want everything fast. We want it now. So when we hear of following Christ and taking up crosses, disciplining ourselves, slowing down, and meditating in God's Word, that is like alien information. But God says, "Be still and know that I am God." If you are going to be a real disciple of Jesus, you need to slow down and learn to listen.

A disciple will carefully read, study, and live according to God's Word because when we understand what God says about life; its truth sets us free.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **The Word of God is perfect.** God's Word is in direct contrast to the flawed imperfect reasoning of humanity today. Things are always changing, always shifting. Culture changes. Fashion changes. Technology changes. But God's Word, in contrast, is always fresh. It's always new. It is as fresh as the morning dew. The Scripture says of God that His mercies are new every morning.
2. **The Word of God is a treasure.** Psalm 19:10–11 says that the truths of Scripture are more desirable than gold—even the finest gold. And there is great reward for those who obey them. Proverbs 2 also speaks of searching Scripture as mining for gold. From a modern translation, it says "If you make insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, searching for it a like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt...you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God" (MSG).
3. **Keeping the Word of God makes you happy.** If you want peace, joy, meaning, and happiness, it comes through knowing God's Word. Luke 11:28 says, "[Happy] are those that hear the Word of God and keep it!" (NKJV). You don't have to party and drink to have fun. You can have a happy life without sin by having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- The Bible is truth; it's the yardstick by which we measure all other so-called truth. If you're a hungry person spiritually, you're a healthy person spiritually. Healthy people are hungry people.
- Being a disciple is walking with Jesus in such a way that you can say to someone else, "Follow my example."

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Jesus says in John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done unto you” (NASB). What does word abide mean? Think of a tree planting its roots deeply in Christ. Soaking up the nutrients. Growing each and every day. Staying in a given place. Staying in fellowship with Him. Jesus says, if you abide in Me and My word abides in you, then you will ask for whatever you want and it will be done. And I’ll tell you why: because you’ll start praying for what God wants you to pray for. That’s the objective of prayer. Not getting God to do what I want Him to do. It is getting me to do what God wants to do. If you continue in HisMy Word, then you are His disciples. That means you study it. That means you memorize it. Ultimately, it means it affects your thinking and your living and everything that you do.