

A Lifestyle of Discipline and Diligence

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I. Introduction.

II. The fruit of the Spirit is self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

A. This means to be in control of one's faculties.

B. The idea has to do with being reasonable and moderate. (Acts 26:25, Romans 12:3)

C. This comes from the Spirit, God and discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7, 1 Timothy 4:7, Colossians 3:7, Philippians 2:12-13)

D. The Bible leaves things in tension for balance. God is at work, but we are to work out our own salvation. (Luke 14, 1 Peter 5)

E. Counselors also help us with self-control. (Proverbs 13:10)

III. Lessons from Daniel.

A. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile God.

B. Most of our basic attitudes towards life are derived from our parents.

C. Every problem that we have is directly related to our view of God.

1. This is emotionally difficult to accept.

2. Joseph recognized God's sovereign hand in difficulties. (Genesis 49:8; 50:20; Romans 8:28)

D. We need to maintain a distinction between doctrine (those beliefs we die for) and convictions. We must be diligent in studying the Scripture to know the difference. (Daniel 3:18, 2 Timothy 2:15)

E. A disciplined person is sensitive, loyal but confrontational. (Daniel 4, Job 2:25, 1 Corinthians 11:30, 2 Timothy 4:20)

F. We must not compromise truth at any cost. (Daniel 5)

G. The Christian life is combat all the way. (Daniel 6)

H. Disciplined people need to learn how to live in obscurity. (John 10:10)

I. The thought life must be replaced with thoughts upon Christ.

IV. Personal application.

A. We are not to yield to sexual sin. (Romans 6:16-19)

B. We must deal with sin right up front. (Joshua 7:20-21, Proverbs 4:23-25)

C. We must be disciplined with our use of time. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

D. We must be faithful stewards with our use of money. (Luke 16:10-12)

Application questions:

1. How can one practically grow in the area of self-control?

2. How was Daniel a model for self-control?

3. How can it be helpful to know that the Christian life is a battle all the way until the end? Explain.
