

# Disciplines of the Christian Faith

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## History

## Definitions

English Greek Pronunciation	Greek meaning	English meaning
<b>discipline</b> <b>gumnazo</b> goom-nad'-zo	to exercise _____, to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind	training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character
<b>disciple</b> <b>mathetes</b> math-ay-tes'	a learner, pupil (derived from the Greek word <b>manthano</b> (math-ayt-yoo'-o) meaning to learn, to increase in knowledge, to hear, to be informed, to learn by use and practice, to be in the _____ of or accustomed to)	one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another
<b>Christian</b> <b>christianos</b> khris-tee-an-os'	a _____ of Christ	one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ
<b>faith</b> <b>pistis</b> pis'-tis	conviction of the truth of anything, _____; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things	allegiance to duty or a person; belief and trust in and loyalty to God

## Lists of Disciplines

### Historical Disciplines

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Meditation
3. Fasting
4. Praise
5. Patience
6. Evangelism
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Discipling

### Current Series Schedule

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (11/29)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (12/06)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (12/13)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (12/20)

## Introduction

### Purpose

To become a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian and fulfill God's will for my life (**Colossians 4:12b**;  
**Ephesians 4:14-15**)

### Focus

The four basic habits every Christian must develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity (prayer, devotions, fellowship, and tithing)

### Goal

To \_\_\_\_\_ to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity (**Romans 6:19b**)

### Spiritual Maturity

Definition: being like \_\_\_\_\_ (**Romans 8:29a**)

#### I. Facts about spiritual maturity

- A. It is not automatic (**Hebrews 5:12-14**)
- B. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Peter 3:18a**)
- C. It always takes discipline (**1 Timothy 4:7**)

#### II. Understanding Discipleship

- A. The more disciplined I become the more God can \_\_\_\_\_ me
- B. How can I become a disciple? Develop disciple \_\_\_\_\_  
Habit: something that you \_\_\_\_\_ when you miss it

#### III. Four Habits

- A. Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ with God (**John 15:7**)
- B. Devotions: \_\_\_\_\_ with God (**John 8:31-32**)
- C. Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_ God's people (**John 13:34-35**)
- D. Tithing: \_\_\_\_\_ to God (**Luke 14:33**; **Deuteronomy 14:22-23**)

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## Schedule:

11/29: Prayer

12/13: Fellowship

12/06: Devotions

12/20: Tithing

## 1. Getting a Grasp on your Bible

I. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word (sermons, studies, devotions)

A. Be ready and eager ([Luke 8:8c](#), [Psalm 119:103](#))

B. Pay attention ([Luke 8:18a](#))

C. Act ([James 1:22, 25](#))

II. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word ([Revelation 1:3](#))

Ideas: (1) Read systematically (2) Use a Bible without notes (3) Vary versions

Fact: I can read the entire Bible once a year if I read \_\_\_\_ minutes a day

III. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word ([Acts 17:11b](#), [2 Timothy 2:15](#))

Question: What's the difference between reading and studying?

Answer: Level of \_\_\_\_\_ (reading is surface level, while studying is digging and researching)

Gary's recommendations:

1. MacArthur Study Bible
2. Scofield Study Bible
3. Ryrie Study Bible

Jim's recommendations

1. [studylight.org](http://studylight.org)
2. [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)
3. [blb.org](http://blb.org)

IV. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word ([Proverbs 7:2-3](#), [Psalm 119:11, 105](#))

V. \_\_\_\_\_ on God's Word (**Psalm 1:2b-3, Joshua 1:8**)

Definition: Meditation is focused \_\_\_\_\_ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

Ways to do this: Picture, Personalize, Probe (**S**in to confess, **P**romise to claim, **A**ttitude to change, **C**ommand to keep, **E**xample to follow, **P**ray to pray, **E**rror to avoid, **T**ruth to believe, **S**omething to thank God for)

VI. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word (**James 1:22, John 13:17**)

Determine the interpretation (what it meant to the original hearers), the implication (the underlying timeless principle), and the personalization (how can I wear it?)

## 2. Devotions

Definition: a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to \_\_\_\_\_ Him through the Bible and prayer

- A. Why is it a big deal? (**Matthew 4:4b, Psalm 119:9**)
- B. What should it accomplish? (**Psalm 25:4, Proverbs 3:6, Psalm 37:5, Psalm 37:4, Acts 4:13**)
- C. The object of your quiet time is not to study about Him but to spend \_\_\_\_\_ with Him (**Luke 10:38-42**)
- D. How to begin: Select a time (when you are at your best), a place (with few distractions) and gather the resources (a Bible and a notebook)
- E. What does it look like? Relax, read, reflect, record, and request
- F. Problems you will face (discipline, distractions, \_\_\_\_\_)

Educational fact: It takes \_\_\_\_\_ weeks for you to become familiar with a new task. Then it takes another \_\_\_\_\_ weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.

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## Schedule:

11/29: Prayer

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## 1. Benefits of Giving

### 1 Corinthians 16:2a; 2 Corinthians 8:7

- A. Giving makes me like (similar to) \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 3:16**)
- B. Giving draws me closer to God (**Matthew 6:21**)
- C. Giving is the antidote to materialism (**1 Timothy 6:17-19: 17 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. 18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give** [literally, 'ready to be \_\_\_\_\_'], **willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.**)
- D. Giving strengthens my faith (**Luke 6:38**)
- E. Giving is an investment in \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Timothy 6:18-19**)
- F. Giving blesses me in return (**Proverbs 22:9a, 11:25: The generous soul will be made rich** [fat], **And he who waters** [\_\_\_\_\_] **will also be watered** [rained on] **himself.**)

## 2. Tithing

- I. What is a tithe? the \_\_\_\_\_ part of my income
- II. What is the difference between a tithe and an offering?
- III. Why should I tithe?
  - A. Abraham \_\_\_\_\_ it (**Genesis 14:18-20**)

- B. God commanded it (**Leviticus 27:30**)
- C. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ it (**Matthew 23:23: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint [sweet smelling herb that the Jews spread on the floors of their houses and synagogues] and anise [dill—used as a spice and a medicine] and cumin [a seed used as a condiment], and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done [literally, ‘these were necessary that you continue doing constantly’], without leaving the others undone.**)
- D. God says that refusing to tithe is stealing from Him (**Malachi 3:8**)
- IV. What does tithing show?
- A. Tithing demonstrates that God has \_\_\_\_\_ place in my life (**Deuteronomy 14:23b**)
- B. Tithing reminds me that everything I have was \_\_\_\_\_ to me by God (**Deuteronomy 8:18a**)
- C. Tithing expresses my love to the Lord (**Psalms 116:12; Deuteronomy 16:17**)
- V. Where should I give my tithe? Where I \_\_\_\_\_ (**Malachi 3:10a**)
- VI. When should I tithe? \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Corinthians 16:2a**)

### 3. Attitudes

- A. Willingly and \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Corinthians 8:3-4; 9:1-2a**)
- B. Expectantly (**2 Corinthians 9:6b**)
- C. Cheerfully (**2 Corinthians 9:7: So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful [Greek is *hilaros*—from which we get our English word, \_\_\_\_\_] giver.**)

The key: **2 Corinthians 8:5b: they first gave themselves to the \_\_\_\_\_, and then to \_\_\_\_\_ by the will of God**