

Series: Pivot

Message: Private Disciplines

October 19, 2014

Discipline results in: Progress, freedom, good feelings, beneficial. *Discipline is doing what you ought to do so you can do what you want to do.*

Growing, healthy, liberating faith requires personal disciplines.

Seeking Him first with time and money will breathe life into your spirit.

Giving is not primarily about meeting needs. It is about the condition of your heart and your faith.

God sees our giving and rewards it. Matthew 6:2-4

Giving money stretches our faith because it means letting go of the very thing we trust in rather than God.

Prayer is an expression of dependence. Matthew 6:5-6; Mark 1:35

Prayer reminds us of what is true of God and us.

Prayer informs our faith.

How To Pray Matthew 6:9-15

Vs 9-10 You are my Father, you are in charge.

Vs 11 I Have needs, please meet them.

Vs 12 I make mistakes, forgive me.

Vs 12 Others harm me, empower me to forgive them.

Vs 13 I am tempted, protect me and strengthen me.

Vs 14 Protect me from pride and inaction.

Challenge: Grow your faith by regularly praying and giving.

Life Group Questions

For week of October 19, 2014

To prepare for this week's meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting as you come together to connect, encourage one another to grow and to see God change your lives from the inside out!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. When it comes to discipline, where do you struggle most?
2. Is there something you currently enjoy doing that began as a discipline? If so, what made the discipline become enjoyable?

Going Deeper

Read 6:1-4 What practice or discipline did Jesus teach?

What guidelines did he give?

What outcome does he promise?

Read Matthew 6:5-6 and Mark 1:35.

Which is easier, praying consistently or giving consistently? Why?

Why do you think Jesus instructs us to pray privately on a regular basis?

We all pray in times of crisis. Do you think our crisis prayers would be different if we practiced the discipline of private daily prayer? If so, how?

Once again Jesus promises a reward, this time to those who pray privately. In your opinion, how are those who pray in private rewarded?

Prayer isn't supposed to be complicated or intimidating. How do the following verses reinforce that prayer is simple and vital to our spiritual growth?

Matthew 6:7

Romans 8:26-27

James 5:13-16

I Thessalonians 5:16-17

What do these verses tell us about how God relates to us?

Which of these verses is most helpful with your motivation to pray?

Father, I come to you....

TAKE THE THREE MONTH TITHE CHALLENGE

1. Commit to put God as your first priority.

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB

2. Trust God by committing to return to God 10% of your income for 90 days through giving on Sunday or online or by mail.

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Malachi 3:10a

3. Record what God has done in your life for 90 days. Share the blessing by sharing your story.

'Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.' Malachi 3:10b

"...But from this day on I will bless you." Haggai 2:19