

Discipline - George Verwer

by From the Pulpit & Classic Sermons

Discipline is essential for a Christian, as it allows us to think on things that are pure, lovely, and of good report, and to seek God's kingdom first.

Duration: 38:27

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:5, Ecclesiastes 12:1, Matthew 22:39, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 2 Timothy 2:15, James 1:5, 2 Peter 1:12

Topics: "Radio"

Description

In this sermon, George Verwer discusses the importance of discipline in the life of a disciple. He acknowledges that self-discipline goes against our human nature and is often met with resistance. Verwer emphasizes the need to fill our minds with good and pure things, rather than leaving them empty and susceptible to negative influences. He also highlights the importance of discipline in our speech, cautioning against talking excessively about trivial matters. Verwer references James chapter 3 to support his points on the discipline of the tongue.

Transcript

Welcome to from the pulpit and classic sermons each week We bring you a different message from some of history's greatest speakers in the Christian faith and powerful sermons for modern preachers, too This week we have George Ferber with this message discipline Discipline I Remember when I used to work in a camp out in Colorado And every time I would mention or someone else and would mention Self-discipline I would hear groans nobody likes self-discipline And I'm becoming convinced that it's completely contrary to our human nature We just don't like to be disciplined. We just don't like to do what we're told. We just don't like to pick up paper We don't like to clean up things.

It just goes against us We just want to go as we feel we feel good. We'll do something if we don't feel good We won't do it. We'd like to be controlled just by our emotions and our feelings but discipline is Just the opposite Discipline is simply doing what's right whether we feel like it or not A disciple is one who is trained or taught And after I read that definition I begin to wonder Am I a disciple? Am I very well trained am I very well taught Maybe we should say we're in the process of becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are in the process of learning We're in the process of learning what it is to have not just self-control but spirit control Because it's not by might or by power, but by my spirit sayeth the Lord And certainly discipline is way above us. It's above me And probably I'm gonna speak to myself more than anyone else

this morning and if it hits you well, praise God join the crowd It's learning, isn't it? It's learning what God has for us and we learn in so many different ways. We learn from the Word of God God teaches us and he expects us not only to learn it in the mind But to apply it to the heart and life and to live it.

Otherwise, it's just knowledge Which profits little we learn by experience we say experience is the best teacher or it's a hard teacher It is for me, but I tell you it's a convincing teacher Experience and I believe that God teaches us by one another too as the Spirit of God brings us in contact with different people and I remember many times my own life how Perhaps God is beginning to speak to my heart along a certain area and just in the next few days I would meet someone else that perhaps was thinking along the same lines and God would just kind of Double and treble the lesson that he was trying to teach me and so we learn from one another in fact I'm not sure just how much I would know this morning if it hadn't been for other people who had taught me Some of us, you know are a lot more privileged than others Some of us have had Christian training right from the cradle upward Some of us have had parents and I'm speaking for myself who pray daily and who want just God's best for your life Some of us have had more training we've had more opportunities to learn of Jesus Christ And therefore I believe our responsibility is far greater than one who has had little But we learn from others and oh what a joyous thing This is that we can have Christian fellowship where we can learn from one another and so we need to take every Way in which God teaches us and learn all we can from and apply I'd like to be as practical as possible this morning I'd like to to just take discipline in various realms of our lives I'd like to look into the scripture and see what the scripture says about it and mention some of the principles And then if at all possible, I'd like to to apply this to our everyday living that we might truly be a Disciplined one a real disciple of Jesus Christ The first the first area that hits me is discipline in thought Because this is the whole basis our thought life and I was amazed as I began to look at scripture I was first I was going to look at all the scriptures on thought and on imagination and on discipline And I started to look one look at the concordance and I gave up and I said well Lord Just leave me to to some that will be a blessing.

I'll never get through all these it take me a couple weeks The scripture is full of talking about the mind the heart the soul Remembrance not forgetting thoughts imaginations desires meditation all these words which describe Some aspect of our thinking And I'm I feel that this is basic because if our thoughts are disciplined our actions will be disciplined Our words will be disciplined Perhaps we say well we speak without thinking but somewhere in the past you have thought what you've said And so it's discipline in the thought that affects the rest of our lives Sometimes there's an unpleasant picture given of the thought life in scripture I think of a passage in Genesis chapter 6 verse 5 and the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every Imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually This is the natural man.

This is the usual course That the imagination of our thoughts and of our heart is evil continually This is the way we go This is the whole pull of our nature is down is to be thinking that which we know is wrong Is to be thinking that which we know is evil and is displeasing to God But then God steps in and he renews the mind And so the mind is a great potential for good or evil And let's face it we're all faced with it, aren't we We have it every day Satan comes in with temptations to think evil It may be just plain immoral thoughts.

It may be bitterness. It may be jealousy It may be discouragement It may be self-pity My problems are bigger than everybody else here Surely God knows this the other people can't have the problems I do and so we feed on it and we feed on it and we feel sorry for ourselves And then we want to tell everybody about our problems So they'll sympathize and my you are going through a rough time you know how it does our hearts good when we hear about people praying for us because they know we have a lot of

Problems and we just know that see we're getting more and more attention self-pity This is the thought life in the discipline thought life says cut it out Tempted to think about our problems and to think we have the worst Cut it out and think of what Christ went through for us Think about what other people are really going to and consider them before ourselves Discipline in the thought life Another passage perhaps that we could mention as the remedy to this Evil thoughts is 2nd Corinthians 10 verse 5 Perhaps we could start with verse 3 for though we walk in the flesh We do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh But mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds casting down imaginations and Every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ This it seems to me as the remedy instead of evil thoughts Bringing every thought into captivity to Christ because if the thought is controlled by Christ, it can't be evil And if the thought of jealousy comes up if it's brought in captivity to Christ Then it goes away it has to because Christ and evil don't mix and Jesus Christ and a rotten mind don't mix They can't and so Paul says bring every thought into the obedience of Christ Thinking the way he would have us think It's so easy to have a worldly mind Or perhaps not worldly in the usual fundamental sense, but worldly because it's just the human way of looking at things We don't look at things by faith. We look at them by sight.

Don't worry. That's worldly. We look at things What are other people going to say instead of what will God think about it? I Find it's so easy just to be to begin regarding all my work just in a very human way Instead of well now, how does God want this done? But you see if it's human in a sense, it's actually worldly.

It's not of God. It's not of the Spirit Therefore it must be fleshly. It's of the whole human nature And so we need to cast down every imagination and this is why I feel discipline comes in It's an act of the will that says no And it tears it out and comes to Jesus Christ for cleansing And for purifying And that he might control our thoughts he says casting down the imaginations It's not so bad if they just start to come but it's that Keep thinking about them.

That's what hurts That's where the sin comes in Just the first thought we're all tempted aren't we? But it's the second and third and fourth and fifth for several days perhaps or even for several moments This is where the sin comes in Even the root of anger that comes up It may the temptation may come to be angry But if you feed on it Becomes bitterness becomes hatred and that's the same as being a murderer and that's where the sin comes in And so the very first sign of it it needs to be passed down Every imagination that which exalts itself against God and it can be anything Can be a job It can be eating Can be sport Doesn't matter what it is, but it can begin to take too much plates from God And we need to cast down every imagination everything that exalts itself Against God and of course, this is the basic sin, isn't it Lucifer? I want to be like the Most High God. He was cast out of heaven All these kind of imaginations are from Satan and even as Satan was cast out of heaven So they need to be cast out of our minds in the power of the Spirit of God Isaiah 26 3 We have a great promise of peace thou will keep him in perfect peace Note the condition whose mind is stayed on thee Because he trusteth in thee and this is a condition unless the mind is stayed on the Lord Jesus Christ It is not at peace It's being tossed to and fro conflicts doubts all kinds of temptations, but if it stayed on Christ It's just another way of saying looking on to Jesus which causes a person to run a race that is steadfast and to run it with endurance and To lay aside every weight and every sin Stay your mind on Jesus Christ look unto Jesus This is what we need to do with our minds discipline Disciplining our thoughts to be stayed on him. I Think meditation comes in here I've found that memorizing scripture is a great way of keeping the mind disciplined And I have to confess that in recent weeks.

I haven't been doing so much memorizing of scripture In all how we need to Discipline ourselves to memorize even if it is hard to memorize. I remember Krista Fisher when we worked back at 30 Middleton Road She sat at the typewriter and above her typewriter She'd put a new scripture text every day or maybe one or two or three of them and every spare moment She had she'd look up and she'd be reading and meditating on that verse until she memorized But usually we get a spare moment and and we just kind of let it slide idly by While we're waiting at the bus stop for a bus Maybe nobody else is there so you can't talk to anybody You can't give out a track, but then to pull out a New Testament and memorize a word of scripture To Fill our minds to occupy our mind with that which is good. It's not enough just to have a clean mind.

That's still empty Because if you clean out the mind and it's empty then pretty soon all sorts of other things will come in and you'll have seven Devils instead of one it's got to be filled up with that Which is truth with that which is good with that which is pure Whatsoever things are pure lovely of good report honest think on These things And if it doesn't measure up to that standard that Paul laid down in Philippians 4 don't think on these things Meditate and it's a discipline It's a discipline because I find that my mind just likes to do nothing Yeah, I don't like to think I don't like to plan I get going for a while and then about the middle of the day when I get sleepy and tired I Don't want to think of what I should say in the next letter. I just don't like to it is lazy And it's a discipline to say think Or maybe in that time pray and ask God to discipline you to think But in the idle moment to let the mind the thoughts wander, you know, another thing that's come to me is Being very sentimental I think this is what homesickness is Sometimes I go for four years without seeing my parents and every once while I get a hankering for my old life out in West Africa especially when it was a cold winter and I thought of the 90-degree weather out there and The beautiful sunshine and getting that nicely baked feeling when you get out in the Sun and so my mind begins to wander and I just go back to boyhood days and I think of have any problems then hardly and I Just get carried away And yet how foolish it's unrealistic. I can't go back there It doesn't do me a bit of good About five or ten or maybe minutes later or maybe an hour later I come back to reality and have to face up to it all again And it's just a waste of time, isn't it? To have all these little fluffy airy feelings about the past or wanting to be somewhere where we aren't And or sometimes I'm thinking here in England Well, I wonder what it'd be like to be slugging it out with those there in the Muslim world What it would be like just to be with some of those brothers I begin to think of some brother and you know I have a great love and I just love to be with them in fellowship again And it's good to have that bond of unity, but sometimes it becomes just vain imagination and it's a waste of time Instead of seeing things as God You know how we need to discipline our minds so they just don't wander all over the place doing nothing going nowhere But rather that we might discipline our thoughts and discipline our whole lives Towards one purpose to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to do his way Of course, we could talk about worry too Good passages Matthew 6 in case you've never read it before.

I Think it'd be good to read it again. Anyway Because worry is in the mind, isn't it? It may affect the body it may affect How you feel but worry is all in the mind and most of the time worry isn't even it's not even reality You're worrying about something that's in the future that you're not sure how it's going to turn out And it doesn't it doesn't help a bit It doesn't do one thing for you as we've heard before but let's remind ourselves what the Lord Jesus Christ said Verse 25 therefore I say unto you read 24 No man can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or else He will hold to one and despise the other you cannot serve God and mammon Mammon is worried Therefore I say unto you be not anxious for your life What you shall eat or what you shall drink nor yet for your body what you shall put on is Not the life more than the food and the body than the raiment Behold the birds of the heaven that they sow not

neither do they reap nor gather into barns and your heavenly father feedeth them Are not ye of much more value than they and which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? I suppose all you fellows were like me and One time or another you were shorter than everybody else. Well, I still am but I used to my brother's about five six inches taller than I am and Every couple weeks when we measured against the bedroom wall of my mother I Was here and his mark was up here always above me and I wanted to be tall like my brother but all the thinking about it didn't do a bit of good and Even exercises.

I don't think that helped any either It does it just doesn't help it doesn't do anything And why are you anxious concerning Raymond, you know, I found the real problem when I used to have A lot of clothes. It took me five or ten minutes in the morning trying to make up my mind which shirt to put on It's so much simpler when you just have one or two changes It simplifies life It's bad here in England, but it's even worse in the States. I remember working in the camp and for one week I remember a girl coming they had 20 blouses for one week.

She changed three times a day of course, she was catering to the fellows, but think of it the decisions that would have to be made to change 20 times in one week and Decisions are what's hard to make well Raymond consider the lilies of the field How they grow they toil not neither do they spin Yet I say unto you that even Solomon and all his glory was not arrayed like one of these But if God does so clothed the grass of the field which today is and tomorrow is cast in the oven shall he not much more clothed you all ye of little faith an Anxiety about Dress and what we're going to wear is not a faith and if it's not a faith, it's sin Now we've been told we're to be neat But one can be neat Without spending half the day trying to get a wardrobe together Some people just when they go to pack it takes them it takes them a week to get prepared even some of the girls here I'm used to I'm used to just Telling them well, you're going for this weekend But they want to know in advance by two or three days so they can plan what they have to be iron and what has to Be washed and so forth In some ways this is good but it shows how occupied we get with what we wear and how much time we can spend just on Ordinary living which should be the minimum and of course we could say the same for food Now I enjoy good food But I don't see that it makes much difference if the radish is whole if it's peeled in a nice little tulip type thing And yet I know some ladies that will spend hours I've been in their homes. They spend hours preparing a meal. Let's go down in a half hour, and that's it Well, we need to be realistic don't we? About our time and about just plain ordinary living 31 be not therefore anxious saying what shall we eat or what shall we drink or wherewithal shall we be clothed? We serve tea and coffee and you have to make up your mind whether it's going to be tea or coffee You're going to drink for me.

I just like plain old cold water, but most people don't go for that quite so much I'm still trying to convince the Britishers that cold water is good for them But I'm having a hard time they like their tea and coffee or something else For after all these things do the Gentiles speak for your heavenly father knoweth Well that came in didn't it For your heavenly father knoweth that you have need of all these things And so what does it matter if I can't get my cold water? I'll drink whatever is available But seek ye first his kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you now This is a promise from the Word of God that if we seek him first The food our raiment, whatever we really need will be added unto us And if we don't rest on that then we're just disregarding what he said Don't worry be anxious for nothing And I tell you sometimes there are things that humanly speaking is something to be anxious about But God tells us be anxious for nothing and I found that most of the time we're worried about something That's coming in the future and we're not sure how it's going to come out. We don't worry too much about the past It's

already happened in the present. Well, we're actually in that but it's something in the future and many times There's something that's come up in my life and I know that it's going to be hard to do it Maybe it's a situation and I know that I have to tell that person to do something that I know they aren't going to like and and this is difficult and I can begin to worry.

Well, just how are they going to react? Will I lose their friendship? But God says don't worry about it Because you can't change it anyway, and we're always worried about something that we can have no influence over really And usually when we get to it, it's not nearly as bad for instance when I think of chopping my finger off I don't like the thought of it And I could I could worry about if I knew that five minutes from now I was going to have to take a hatchet and chop my finger off I would get disturbed and sometimes I when I think of martyrdom I think of different ways people torture you I can get bothered by it. I think what if what if I had to go through this certain physical torture? But then when the moment comes and you do chop your finger off It's just over like that and then you go about getting it repaired But It's usually not nearly as bad as your mind imagines there's that word again imagination imagines it to be usually the real thing is not nearly so bad as The real thing, of course, sometimes we can imagine something is going to be very wonderful, too And we can get so wrapped up in how wonderful something's going to be and then when we get there it falls flat Maybe that's happened to you at this conference Maybe your hopes were so built up that God was going to take one or two people and they were going to give such wonderful Messages that you just had to get blessed and therefore you depended on some great speaker coming along and you've been disappointed Because if we're going to receive a real thing, it's got to be God he gives it to us He uses men. Yes, but it's amazing what kind of men he does use I Guess we'd save ourselves a lot of a lot of anxiety.

We'd save ourselves perhaps some ulcers We'd relieve the situation in our mental institutions a lot of other places if we could learn this lesson not to worry. I Sometimes find myself doing it I praise God I have some friends that they can come along and they see if I'm worrying or not and they say Are you worried? Get back to reality and it's good It's good to have brothers and sisters that are honest enough with you and they tell you when something's wrong with you You know how we need to do this to exhort one another Because God says don't worry about something that doesn't mean you're not to ever think about it Because in the same breath that Jesus would say don't worry don't be anxious about these things He also tells us to take care And he says I put you in remembrance of these things for instance over in first Timothy 4 15 After Exhorting Timothy along certain lines to let no man despise his youth But rather be an example and to be a learner and to really give heed to reading an exhortation Notice he says in verse 15 be diligent You can't be diligent without thinking Be diligent in these things give thyself wholly to them that thy progress may be manifest unto all And in other places we read about study or be diligent to show yourself approved unto God And give all diligence to add to your faith Virtue brotherly kindness love and so the scripture talks about actually giving thought to something in many times We are reminded to Remember something remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth and Peter mentions in his first epistle I believe I put you in remembrance of these things I remind you of them and so over and over again We have the same things stated in the Old Testament We were commanded to love God with all our heart soul strength and mind and our neighbors ourself It's recorded another three or four times in Scripture to remind us and we are to remember We're not to worry about something but were to remember The things that God has taught us and were to give thought to something Not in a worrying sense, but thinking with God Depending on him to give us wisdom if we lack wisdom ask of God in faith, and he will give Perhaps I could give this illustration. I Don't want you to worry about dirty plates left all over the campground But it would certainly be nice if you would remember them to take them where they're to be washed Don't worry

about it, but just remember And then get on with the more important thing.

Don't worry about If the lines getting too long Outside the washroom or outside the dining hall but remember To redeem the time while you're there in line And use it to really fellowship with one another and to make the time profitable And of course to be sensible don't all crowd into the doorway so that all the lines get muddled up don't worry but remember The things God wants to teach us and has taught us One more thought along this matter of the mind In Romans 12 1 and 2 we read about the presenting of our bodies a living sacrifice But he goes on in the second verse To mention another aspect And he says and be not fashioned according to this world But be transformed by the renewing of your mind And this is what we need. We need our minds renewed. We need our whole attitude toward life renewed we need our thinking Renewed in Ephesians 4 tells the same thing to be that we should be renewed in the spirit of our mind and This is the answer to it all.

This is the answer to a disciplined mind get a new one Instead of ours get the Lord Jesus Christ mind instead of I Christ renewed in our mind I Remember when I was in Montana, I Keep mentioned different places. You probably know that Traveled around a little bit Lord keeps shifting me here and there but when I was out in Montana a couple summers the Lord Taught me this lesson about the thought and how basic it is If you saw a thought You reap an action And if you saw an action you reap a habit If you saw a habit you reap a life you saw a life you reap an eternity and it starts with the thought and Unless God comes in and arrests that whole order. He can't stop it at the habit He can't even stop it at the life and change the life We praise God that he can stop at anywhere except in eternity and then it's too late But remember it starts with the thought Another area that's very important and very closely linked together with this is the tongue James chapter 3 Discipline of the tongue Americans seem to have a great desire to talk a lot.

I find it easy to talk if I'm not careful I Get carried away, you know how we need to be disciplined in what we say It's not wrong to talk a lot, but it is wrong to talk a lot about nothing for in many things we all stumble Sure enough if any stumbleth not in word the same is a perfect man Able to bridle the whole body also Now if we put the horses bridles into their mouths that they may obey us we turn about their whole body also Behold the ships also though They are so great and are driven by rough winds are yet turned about by a very small rudder Whether the impulse of the steersman will it so the tongue also is a little member Behold how much wood is kindled by how small a fire and the tongue is a fire the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue which defied us the whole body and Sets it on fire the wheel of nature and is set on fire by hell For every kind of beasts and birds or creeping things and things in the sea is tamed and half been tamed by mankind But the tongue can no man tame it is a restless evil It is full of deadly poison Therewith bless we the Lord and father and therefore therewith curse We men who are made after the likeness of God out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing My brethren these things ought not so to be Yes, the unregenerate man may curse God but not many of us would dare to curse God with me But instead we'll just talk behind everybody else's back and just run him into the ground And yet from the same tongue we praise God one moment and we tear a fellow brother down behind his back Now if you tear him down to his face, it's a different thing If you're saying to his face Perhaps pointing out something you feel is wrong in his life That's scriptural.

That's done in the spirit of love to exhort one another but when you say something behind their back That you wouldn't say to his face or at least you wouldn't say unless you absolutely forced you then it's wrong The tongue it's bad enough to complain inwardly, isn't it? It's bad enough to To murmur and complain Within ourselves so that nobody else knows about it But if you start voicing your complaints then it

influences someone else and they voice their complaints and that's joined together with your complaints and they get greater and your complaints are far worse by the time you finish discussing them than they were to start with and This works in a crowd because we influence one another And this is what happens usually in a mob when when some mob action is started off One person says go get him and off they are to lynch somebody But just one person saying that it stirs everybody else up If he had said that just to one other person sitting down their living room I would have laughed it off but you know in a crowd you see it influences them and Perhaps you're standing over there by the dining hall and you may make just one little word about the food Maybe it isn't quite as good as you expected or what you would like But this will influence someone else and is it boy, you know, that's right I hadn't thought about that and those beans are a little burnt after all or what have we been eating beans tomatoes and so we Our complaints add to each other and they get worse That's why if we have a complaint Voice it to God and not to one another or if it is something that can be corrected Voice it to the person in charge And then if he doesn't take it then perhaps you can voice it to everybody But how easy it is just to talk behind a person's back and I find this Sometimes we're thinking about people who have applied this of course applies to some of you and we receive their applications and We're looking at them and to be quite honest.

I look through them with the soul well more than one purpose, but one of the purposes is to try and find anything that kind of Flashes a red light and I want to know more about that person now maybe all of you are really you really mean business, but some people can write in and they want to apply and Well, it's hard telling what their backgrounds been and we need to find this out because all we have is one little sheet of paper With a few questions at the first part and a little testimony on the back Have you ever tried to figure out what a person's like from that much?

It's pretty difficult, but I find that perhaps we see the picture there now Sometimes the picture doesn't always glorify the person or perhaps we see something else and I can find myself beginning to talk about someone else Look at this.

I kind of question about that and pretty soon. We're so Talking about what we think might be wrong That we overlook the whole other part and instead of taking that and writing to the person and trying to get it straightened out We can just talk about it or we can talk about one another and it in running the camp here. I found myself I've got to think of well, where would these people fit in the best? Because I must Evaluate the kind of work they're doing it where I feel by God's grace.

They could be used the most But I can find I'm tempted to talk about their failures and their weak point and end up where they don't have any strong points I don't know where to use them You've been listening to the from the pulpit and classic sermon series this week you heard George Verber with his message discipline Tune in next week to hear Hans Wattvogel ask are you a living epistle on from the pulpit and classic sermons?

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/27/SID27351.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/from-the-pulpit-&-classic-sermons/discipline-george-verwer/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net

