

(Om Orientation) Discipline - Part 2

by Jonathan McRostie

The sermon teaches the necessity of discipline in speech, body, relationships, and time for spiritual growth and godly living.

Duration: 34:21

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1

Topics: "Orientation"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of discipline and hard work in the Christian life. He shares his personal experience of doing door-to-door work in Mexico and highlights the challenges he faced. The speaker then goes on to discuss five principles for living a disciplined life, including dealing thoroughly with sin, not owning anything, never defending oneself, not spreading harmful information about others, and not accepting glory for oneself. He concludes by encouraging believers to be steadfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that their labor is not in vain.

Transcript

I can begin talking with someone else about this and saying, can you give me some help on this? I can't figure out just where to use so-and-so and bing bing bing bing bing bing. Here's so many things wrong with him. This is how Satan gets in.

Just with the tongue. Tearing us down, but I think there's another area that's even greater and that's foolish talking. And worthless talking.

Talking about so many things that mean so little in the light of eternity. And I think every one of us stand condemned this morning. I certainly do.

For the many times that I've said words that have had no power. It hasn't edified someone else. It hasn't been a loving encouragement to another brother.

It hasn't been perhaps an exhortation or rebuke in the spirit of love to another person. But it's just been about nothing. We mention it and then we mention it 15 more times.

When once would have been enough. Oh, how easy it is just to get occupied with triviality. While we can find ourselves talking all day long just about the food and planning menus.

Instead about the Lord. And we get to mealtime and we joke and we banter and we do everything else but really talk about the Lord Jesus Christ. Why is it it's so difficult? Oh yes, in a service we talk about the Lord, but why is it then when we eat it's so hard to talk about the Lord Jesus Christ? Why is it when we're out working, we don't seem to want to talk about the Lord Jesus Christ so much? And I knew this back in Bible school.

I've talked with some fellows and they said we're afraid to talk about spiritual things because they'll blame us as a holy joe and a hypocrite. In a Bible school in the United States, I heard them say this. How tragic it is when we as Christians can't get together and talk about the thing that is to mean the most in our lives.

Oh yes, we can get together and especially around here, we can talk vehicles, can't we? Why we can talk about vans and motors and problems that come up with vehicles. We can talk about that all day long. But it's another thing just to talk about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Instead of just vehicles. Or we can talk about the tent and think of how we praise God for the way he supplied it. But then we can spend the next half hour talking about this tent and just how it should be when it's already up and it should be done and over with.

In other words, things which really don't count for eternity. Oh, may God search our hearts. May God control our tongues.

This is discipline. A tongue that speaks to the praise of his glory. A tongue that edifies.

Let your speech be seasoned with salt. Does your speech edify one another? Tell me. Or rather, let's tell God or ask ourselves.

Has everything we've said in the last two days really been to the glory of God? Every word we've uttered. Has it really been for some real purpose? Or has it been foolish talking or senseless chatter? James says that if you control the tongue, you control the body. And if you can control your tongue by God's power, you're doing something that mankind cannot do.

You're doing something that's far greater because mankind can control in so many ways nature. Man has taken the powers of nature. They've taken the atomic power and they can.

They don't always do it, but they can use it for good purposes. And they can take it and harness it and control it. But they can't control the tongue.

Therefore, let us yield our tongues as members of righteousness unto God as we are commanded to do so in Romans six. Well, there are other areas, too. We talk about the body.

The natural desires of our body. In all how we need to have this under the control of the spirit of God, the desire for food. The good one, isn't it? But how we need to have it controlled so that we try to eat what's good for us.

So we try to drink what's good for us. So that we eat and drink to the glory of God. So that our bodies might be the strongest possible.

Some of us, especially those of us who sit behind a desk, need to exercise. I'll be frank, I don't like doing push-ups. I don't like doing sit-ups.

But it's good for me. In all how I need to discipline myself to exercise my body. I went out for a bicycle ride about a week ago.

I came back, pooped. My legs were weak. Of course, I was cycling with someone that used to be a cyclist.

That didn't help matters. But he set a pretty good pace. Well, maybe it wasn't too fast.

It was for me when I hadn't been on a bicycle for some time. But all how we let our bodies just get out of shape. We let our bodies just go to pot.

And yet they're the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. And we are not our own. This body isn't ours.

That means my little finger is to be God. It means my hair is to be God. And it's to be treated as such.

Of course, we could talk about our sexual desires too. And probably this is one of the realms where Satan hits Christians harder than any other. We all know it, don't we? The desire for a wife or the desire for a husband.

It's in us all. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. I've said this sometimes in a joking way.

And yet, I think there's a lot of truth in it. Fellas are good and girls are good. But when you get them together, unless they're brought together by God.

And only then does it become something that's really of glory to God. When God brings two together. And unites them in Jesus Christ.

And they're meant for each other. Then it becomes a great thing and a wonderful thing. I'm speaking not from personal experience.

But from observation of other Christians. And I've lived in enough homes with married couples. To know that unless God gives me a wife.

Who has only one passion and that's for Jesus Christ. Well, I don't want to be married. Because it isn't too happy a scene in a lot of homes.

It's just heartache and grief. And I've met too many people that have come from broken homes or unhappy homes. And I see the problems it's caused.

And I tell you just to show you what it's like here in Britain. Of the 30 or so who have been working here at Chigwell. I don't think there's more than three or four.

That have a full Christian home of both a mother and dad who are Christians. All the rest, either one is dead or they're divorced. Or they don't even know where they are.

Or they're not Christians or they hate them. Chaos. And oh, we can't afford it.

And if you read the history of missions. And if you read about Christian workers. You know how many times whole works of God have just been plowed under.

Because of sex. Because of lust. And I'm speaking because I believe this is a real danger.

In each one of our lives. Take heed lest ye fall. That's why God says not only pray but watch and pray.

And I'd like to give an illustration from scripture. And the man is Joseph. I was really struck by this.

If you remember the story of Joseph when he was working for Potiphar. You remember how he was tempted by Potiphar's wife. To commit immorality.

And you remember how he didn't fall. But he fled from her presence. But before that.

She had tried to tempt Joseph before. And she had tried to rule him. To commit fornication.

And he refused. And we read a little phrase. Over in.

Let me read it for you. It's in Genesis. Chapter 39.

Verse 10. Now notice this. And it came to pass as she that Potiphar's wife.

Spake to Joseph day by day. That he hearken not unto her. And to hearken means to hear and do.

He hearken not unto her to lie by her. Or to be with her. And he refused even to be in her presence.

And I believe that's the reason he had the victory of. A while later. When he was caught unaware.

And it was something he couldn't help. He was in her presence and he couldn't help it. But then was the time that he fled.

But you see if you give in a little bit. If you give in a little bit in the realm of thought. You're going to fall sooner or later.

In action. And that's the way it works. Satan gets you to do it first in your mind.

And then you do it in action. But you see Joseph took the steps before. And he refused to be caught in her presence.

And then when the great crisis came. He was able to get out of there. There are some times when the Bible says.

We're to stand and resist the devil. But boy there's a lot of times when it says. To just get running.

And get out of it. And I don't mean as some people have said. Some men run from temptation.

Hoping it's going to catch up with them. And you know that happens a lot. We run but we still have that secret desire.

Hurry up and catch up with me. No. But to flee.

Oh if we would have that same zeal. That Dave Prosser had for planting corn. And getting those crops.

If we'd have that same zeal for a holy life. And for a pure mind. And to be utterly real.

Of sin in our lives. And to flee temptation. We have the promise.

That no temptation has taken us. But such as is common. To everybody else.

But God is faithful. He'll first not suffer you to be tempted. Above that you're able.

But will with the temptation. Also make a way to escape. And you know I found that sometimes.

I just don't want to take the way of escape. And that's why I may fall. Simply I know the way of escape is there.

But it's because I don't want to take it. You see we actually do like to sin. It's our nature to desire.

That's why the mind. And the attitude needs to be renewed. And change.

From ourselves. To God. From the world.

To Jesus Christ. And so we need to have. Bodies that are disciplined.

Another thing I found that. Discipline in one area. Helps you discipline in another area.

I haven't talked much about time. This is probably the greatest killer. Disciplining our time.

Using it. Redeeming the time for the days are evil. We've heard a lot about it.

But we do so little really. To put it into practice. But I found.

That if I'm disciplined. And do some exercises. It helps me discipline myself.

To use my time better. And if I discipline my time. It helps me to be more disciplined in prayer.

More disciplined in the study of the word. And if I discipline myself to study the word. It helps me to be more disciplined in prayer.

It helps me to be more disciplined in time. More disciplined in my own bodily desires. In natural appetites.

And I think we'll find that. If we're disciplined in the realm of food. It'll help us be disciplined in the realm of sex.

And if we're disciplined in the realm of sex. It'll help us be disciplined in other realms. You see they all get tied in together.

And so even if it's a little thing. I suggested to our group here. One day last week.

Something that came to me. That during this day. Choose something that you know is good.

But you don't want to do it. And do it. Something that perhaps you don't ordinarily do.

But you know it's a good thing. But do it. Just for the sake of discipline.

Not something that's just kind of neutral. But something that you know is good. And on the other hand.

Don't do something. That you know really isn't the best for you. Even though you like to do it.

And I think it helps to be disciplined. Our whole lives. Wholly disciplined or controlled by.

God himself. Then there's the discipline of actions. And of course this could be amplified.

I've mentioned some. I mentioned study. Study to show thyself approved unto God.

Give all diligence. Were to meditate upon the word of God. Day and night.

And it's a discipline. If you wait until you have just a gray. Desire to go and study the word of God.

You probably won't get in it too much. Praise God he does give us that hunger and thirst doesn't he. But sometimes you know we have to go.

Because we know it's good for us. And as we study then. Our thirst and our hunger is built up.

It's that way with eating. Sometimes perhaps you don't feel like eating. Probably not very often.

But yet you eat anyway. Because you know. You need it.

It's good for you. There's the discipline of prayer. And this is a lot of it.

A lot of times we don't pray. Because of an undisciplined life. We know we should pray.

We know we should get along with God. But somehow well there's people to see. There's decisions to be made.

There's little items to take care of. And people have told me. That instead of staying in my office.

I should go off and feel where people can't reach me. But I insist on staying in the office. And therefore I get a lot of interruptions.

It's just this is not common sense. It's not discipline. Sometimes you have to just walk out of everything.

And get clear away. Then people can't call you. Then if the phone rings.

And it's the Queen of England. You can't answer it. Because they don't know where you are.

And it's a help. To get clear away from it. This is what I need.

This is perhaps what you need. You just have to walk completely out of it. And discipline your life.

To get along with God. Denial of self. This is another thing.

We have some desire. We realize it's selfish. Deny it.

Cut it out. Even though perhaps it's not really so bad after all. There's a lot of things.

That I wish I could get kind of a group of men together. I'd like to call. I really would like to have Tiny Snow.

And Dave Hunt come up here. For all the drivers. And boy I'd love to give them.

Turn them loose for about two hours. And tell you how you should be disciplined as a driver. On OM.

I'd love. For us to take a long time. Just to discuss how we can be practical.

After all. What good is a great time of worship with God. If it isn't evidenced in our daily lives.

What good is meeting together. With God and having a great sense of his presence. If it never makes any difference in the way we live.

And so. We need to be disciplined. We need to every morning.

Before you go out and drive a van. You need to check the water. And the oil.

And I'm so ignorant. I don't. I don't know what all you're supposed to check.

That's why I need to be disciplined. That's why I get other people to drive. Because I know I'm not that good a driver myself.

How we need to. To use our heads. In these little things.

Let me just quote some examples. We have a car over in Chateau. We hope that it might be repaired.

But somebody left the water in it over the winter. It's got a cracked block and needs a new engine now. I could cite another example here.

There's a comer down there now. We're hoping that we can get it fixed. But somebody left water there.

And it cracked the block slightly. There are other times when engines get blown up. Because somebody doesn't think.

And they aren't disciplined. In the way they drive. Other times perhaps.

An accident occurs. Now I had one last summer. And it was simply because I was careless.

I came out of the road. Avenue D'Aligre. You that were in Chateau.

And I thought the fellow was going to go straight. But he turned. And I didn't wait to see.

Far enough. And so I smacked up his front door. See it's just a little thing like that.

Another time I remember. I tell you all my accidents. They never want me to drive again.

When I was out in Montana. Well I was on the way to Montana. And I was driving.

It was about midnight. I'd had about two hours sleep the night before. And about four the night before that.

And I went to sleep. Cost me a hundred dollars. About thirty pounds.

Because I knocked the windshield out. Hit a mailbox. Don't know where the mailbox went.

If I had been sensible. I would have turned it over a lot sooner than that. To someone who was awake.

And I remember driving up from Spain. You see God's going to teach me this lesson. That don't drive when you're sleepy.

It's worse than driving when you're drunk. And I was sleepy. So I said I can't drive.

Someone else drove a little bit. And they were sleepy. And all of us were sleepy.

And so we went to sleep. Stayed by the side of the road. And then when we were awake enough.

Then we went on. And it's a lot smarter. Than having about six dead bodies in the ditch.

And I was telling some people. Just think. Just think of what people would think of OM.

A transport system. If one of those vans cracked up. And you had about 15 people.

Who were wounded and dying. Along a highway. I can't think of any faster way.

To see OM go right out the window. Than to see a van crack up like that. Now fortunately if you hit a little car with a van.

The van doesn't get hurt quite so much. But you can get into real trouble. With whoever's in the other little car.

But it's actually just discipline. Always obeying the orders given to you. If you're told not to drive over 40 miles per hour.

Don't drive over 40 miles per hour. And obeying the speed limits. If it says 20 miles per hour.

Then go 20 miles per hour. If it says don't pass. Don't pass.

And if it's raining. Again extra precaution. Discipline in driving.

Now for you that ride in the back of the van. Of course you need to be disciplined too. And not always keep bothering the driver.

Now it's good to have one person. To keep the driver awake. But if everybody's chattering.

And you know another thing. It's good not to jump around in the back of a van. Somebody shared with me.

That one of the vans down there. What all's wrong with it Lou? Give us the word. This is important.

It's inside. Oh. In other words.

The whole inside is quite a mess. And I think it's not only. On the seats that we put in.

Not only the top part. Not only the top boards are broken. But some of the.

The. Two by two inch beams that we put in. To hold up the seats were broken.

I don't know what somebody was doing. I haven't seen any people that heavy here yet. But discipline.

It's so easy to treat God's property. As nobody's property. And so we don't take care of it.

Oh that's an OM van. So what. And so we don't take care of it.

And we waste God's money. We probably spend more money. In OM.

On correcting mistakes that have been made. Then we do feeding the whole lot. Sometimes I wonder.

I think we pay more money on vans. Just correcting careless mistakes that have been made. Then we paid for the vans to begin with.

Because we're not disciplined. We don't know what. How to do as we're told.

There's so many little things. I would say this. Learn to be neat.

Learn to pick up after yourself. And learn to pick up after other people too. You know if everybody.

Took it upon their responsibility. To pick up stray paper that was around. You'd have a clean campground.

Instead of walking down. And seeing everything in a big mess. If everybody took it upon themselves.

Not only take their own plates. But any other plates they saw laying around. You wouldn't see any laying around the campground.

But you go in the registration office. And see three cups of coffee. You can go another place.

And you see a plate. You can see rubbish here. And rubbish there.

Now fortunately most people. Put it in the boxes. Now.

But it's so easy just to think. Well it doesn't matter. These things aren't important.

But it is. I tell you. You live in a van for a month.

And you live sloppily. And you just see what it's like to live in that. Some of these vans after one night.

It's like a pig pen. Now we're trying to take some steps. To correct this.

And some good healthy reminders. But all how we need to be disciplined. Just in the everyday realm of these things.

Little things. Well there's other things. That we'll be learning as we go along.

But if we've been told once. Let's learn it. Let's not have to learn the same lesson.

Fifty dozen times. That's the tragedy. If you make one mistake.

And confess it. And learn from it. That shows wisdom.

But boy. If you make the same mistake. Another five times.

Then we begin to wonder. What's happened. And begin to wonder.

What's happened to us. Either the teachers bad. Or the pupils bad.

One of the two. Speaking about the mind. Maybe we should say.

It's good to have a mind to work. You know the scripture is full of this. This discipline of working.

Some of you have never done door to door work. I want to tell you it's hard. I have to confess.

That it wasn't much fun. Going door to door in Mexico. With only 20 phrases.

And in my broken Spanish. And they gave me some argument. All I could do was come out.
And was repeat my little. My few phrases again. And it was hard.
It got hot. And the book bag got heavy. As George mentioned yesterday.
Very heavy. And a lot of times. People didn't sell.
Didn't didn't buy. And many times. Or they just weren't too friendly.
Sometimes they tore track. Right up in your face. It wasn't.
It wasn't a pleasant experience. Wasn't pleasant at all. It's just plain old hard work.
Boy I tell you. That's when you begin to find out. If you're steadfast or not.
Then you find out. Whether you've been blessed. With the perseverance or not.
After 50 doors turn you down. To go to the 51st one. And keep going.
We read about. The people the children of Israel. In Moses day.
When they built the tabernacle. That they had a mind to work. In the Nehemiah's day.
The people had a mind to work. And tremendous things were accomplished. They had more than enough.
It's the first time I've ever heard. Of an offering being given. Where they had to give it back.
To the people. But when the people gave. For the tabernacle.
Because they had such a mind. To work in a mind to give. They had too much.
And they had to give it back. I've never heard of that today. No.
A mind to work. Yes. This is what we need.
God says let him that stole. Steal no more. But rather let him labor.
Working with his hands. Why? That he may give to those. That don't have.
And this is the whole purpose of working. Whether it's in a secular job. Or a so-called sacred job.
Is that we might give. To others. Either maybe we're giving.
Directly of our will. To our work. Or we work.
And we give directly of. What we make from our work. But that's how we need to do.
It's for a purpose. You see. This brings me to another point.
That I feel is so important. Is discipline and purpose. Because if there's no.
Overall purpose. How can you have discipline? If we have this great purpose. Of glorifying Christ.

Then this affects everything we do. And we can be disciplined. But why be disciplined.
If life doesn't matter. If I have nothing to live for. Then why should I mess around.
Exercising my body. Let me sit in a chair. And die there.
It doesn't make any difference. Unless there's a real purpose. There's no point for discipline.
But when we've got a purpose. Such as we have in Jesus Christ. There's all.
Every reason in eternity. To live disciplined. And this is what we need.
Discipline of purpose. Think of Jesus Christ. We read in Isaiah.
That he set his face. Like a fin. We read that he set his face.
Steadfastly towards Jerusalem. Now don't tell me that he really. Felt like going to the cross.
We don't go by feelings. But he went because he loved. Because he knew this was right.
And he had this great purpose. And he accomplished it. And we too have a great purpose.
In how we need to discipline our bodies. Our minds. Our thoughts.
Every imagination. All that we have. We need to discipline it.
Towards this great purpose. Of first knowing Christ himself. In our own lives.
Pleasing him. And making him known to the ends of the earth. As he's commanded us.
You see there's a purpose for discipline. It's not just to go around saying I'm a disciplined one. No.
But it's that we might accomplish the purpose. And if we aren't disciplined. We're not going to see the
purpose accomplished this summer.
If we aren't disciplined in the back of vans. We're going to have chaos. And you won't get the job done.
Instead of seeing 250 tons of literature be given forth. You'll see 100 tons of it wrecked in the back of vans.
Camped on and torn up and gotten dirty.
And thrown in mud puddles. And hundreds of pounds worth of literature. Just thrown down the drain.
Because we don't know how to take care of literature. It wasn't quite so bad last year. It was just trash.
But when you come with two books. They cost a little more money. Or how we need to be disciplined.
In the way we treat literature. Instead of taking a book. And just dumping it up like this.
On a table. We fold it. And take good care of it.
Now you're looking at my Bible. It's a poor binding. It's been used for two or three years now.
So it's beginning to wear out. But how we need to treat with respect. Books.

In my family. I was brought up right from the ground up. To treat a book with great respect.

Not to worship it. But to treat it as something valuable. My parents didn't have enough money.

To just go out and buy a book. And buy me a new copy of the book every time. And we were to take care of it.

And take good care of it. And oh I pray that God will give you a real vision. For learning how to take care of literature this summer.

Because it's the word of God. It's the message of God. And it needs to be treated right.

And preserved. So that it might reach hungry hearts. If we have a real discipline and purpose.

We'll have a discipline and perseverance then. That we might reach. That purpose.

Therefore my beloved brethren. Be steadfast. Unmovable.

Always. Abounding. In the work of the Lord.

Why? Because you know your labor is not in vain in the Lord. See there's your purpose. Therefore be steadfast.

Unmovable. Always abounding. Discipline and perseverance.

Oh this is so important. I tell you this is. I think of all the truth.

Maybe I shouldn't say of all. But one of the greatest truths that keeps me going. Is this matter of don't give up.

Don't be a quitter. Put your hand to the plow. And don't look back.

But keep on. Whether you feel like it or not. When the problems come.

And you wonder well how everything's gonna work out. Don't give up. But keep going on.

And I believe. That God wants us to be. Persevering saints.

Yes we have all the promises of God at our disposal. But we need to act upon them. And trust them.

But we need to take heed. And watch at the same time. Lest we fall.

I'd like to close with five vows. That were written by A.W. Tozer. I don't know if they tie in exactly with discipline.

But I think they do. He says these are five vows. That will really.

Make your spiritual life something. In the practical realm. I'd like to read them.

The first one he says is deal thoroughly. With sin. For undisciplined it's sin.

Deal thoroughly with sin. Confess it. And forsake it.

The next one is never own anything. If all that we have is God. Then we don't own it.
Then if something happens to it. How can we get upset. It's not ours.
It's God. And how can we take care of what we wear. Better than we take care of someone else's.
Because it's not ours. Never own anything. Number three.
Never. Defend yourself. Never.
Defend yourself. Oh. Never.
Defend yourself. Never. Really help a lot with.
The fourth one. Never pass anything on. About anybody else.
That would hurt them. Never pass anything on. About anybody else.
That would hurt. And the last one. Never.
Accept any glory. It all belongs to God. Never accept one ounce.
It belongs only to God. And if we take it. We're robbing it.
We're robbing God. If we take too much time. We're robbing God.
If we misuse what God has given us. We're robbing God. And one of the great commandments is.
Thou shalt not steal. And so it really boils down again. Discipline is simply obedience to the word of God.
Yes. We need the faith. Oh how we need it.
We need believing hearts. And at the same time. We need hearts that will obey.
They go together. Trust and obey. You've got to have both.
And discipline is simply obedience. To the word of God. Oh that God will enable us.
For it's not by might. It's not by power. It's not by our feeling.
It's not by our emotion. It's not just by our desires. It's not by our striving.
But it's by my spirit. Sayeth the Lord. God is the one who has to discipline our lives.
It may take rebuking. It may take chastising. But oh I pray that in my own life.
God will bring whatever it takes. To make me disciplined. For him.
That the world might hear. Let's pray. Oh father we have to confess.
Our undisciplined lives. Lord we lay them before thee. And we realize that we cannot.
We cannot remember what you've taught us. We cannot do the things you've told us to do. But we're glad
that you've said.

It's not by might or by power. But it's by thy holy spirit. Who indwells us.

And so Lord we believe thee. That you'll enable us to obey thee. In everything you tell us to do.

Oh God. Discipline our lives. Not for our sake.

But for your sake. Because you died that we might be disciplined for Jesus Christ. We ask it in your name.

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