

PBC Growing in Christ

Minister Patrick and Stephanie Burrage

December 13, 2020

Class Norms

A large, dark wooden cross stands in a field of tall grass. The cross is silhouetted against a sky with soft, golden light from a setting or rising sun, creating a dramatic and contemplative atmosphere. The cross is the central focus of the image, with its vertical post and two horizontal arms clearly visible.

- Place your microphone on mute.
- Use the chat room. Located in the upper right of the screen.
- Interact in the class just raise your hand. The instructor will take you off mute.
- Technology may not always work....please be patient.
- God is always in the midst
- Enjoy the class.

Growing in Christ

- Every day is an opportunity to grow in the word.
- Growing in Christ will tackle real life issues, while studying the bible for its answers.
- Examine challenges believers and non-believers face every day.
- Growing in Christ bible study will focus on how Christians face challenges and how the bible addresses these issues.



Growing in Christ

To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)





Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:1-10

What's a habit you would like to develop?

Scripture
Spiritual Disciplines
1 Timothy 4:1-3

1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, 2 through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. 3 They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods that God created to be received with gratitude by those who believe and know the truth.



Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:1-3

What are the dangers of falling for false or ungodly teachings?

What steps can we take to be able to identify a false teaching when we hear one?



Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:1-3

- Scripture clearly states that the faith of believers will be tested. Jesus forewarned His disciples that they would have suffering in this world (John 16:33)
- These hypocrites seek to distort the things of God.
- True believers cannot lose their salvation, we need to be vigilant for deception and false teaching. Part of that vigilance entails dedicating ourselves to growing in our faith.
- We must exercise spiritual discipline. God has provided His church with a variety of “spiritual disciplines” to help in the growth of our faith.
- The Christian life is not merely a series of dos and don’ts, a checklist of behaviors a believer is to either accomplish or avoid. We are saved through faith in Christ alone. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God transforms the life of the believer, conforming that person to the image of Christ. Spiritual disciplines are a means by which this transformation—growth in Christ—takes place.

Scripture

Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:4-7a

4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 since it is sanctified by the word of God and by prayer. 6 If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished by the words of the faith and the good teaching that you have followed. 7a But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths.



Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4-7a

What are some examples of the 'good' gifts Paul mentioned in verse 4?

What are some teachings you've heard are biblical but really aren't?



Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:4-7a

- Paul urged Timothy to correct the deceivers' false teaching by focusing the believers' attention on applying God's truth. Our conduct must always be in line with the unchanging teachings of God's Word, *not on society's ever-changing standards.*
- Knowing God's truth is the starting point for shaping our conduct according to God's truth. Paul was insistent that God's people must know and align their lives to biblical instruction.
- When we focus on God's truth, we can avoid "pointless and silly myths." Paul was certainly referring to the teachings of abstinence from food or marriage, but the principle expands beyond those two teachings. The best way to know when a teaching is counterfeit is to be acquainted with the real thing.

Scripture

Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:7b-10

7b Rather, train yourself in godliness. 8 For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance. 10 For this reason we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

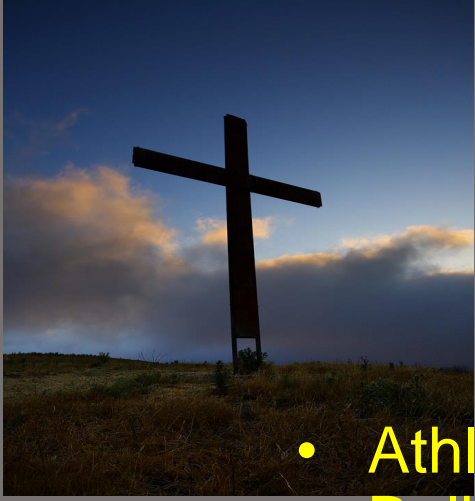


Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:7b-10

What are some specific ways we can train ourselves in godliness?

What are the implications for Paul's choice of the word "train" in verses 7-8?



Spiritual Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:7b-10

- Athletes do specific workouts to address exact performance goals. Believers can be just as strategic in practicing spiritual disciplines.
 - To avoid falling prey to gospel counterfeits, believers study their Bibles.
 - To fight temptation, believers pray for strength, enter into accountability relationships, and memorize Scripture.
 - To increase intimacy with God, believers meditate on Scripture and pray.
 - To maintain focus on Jesus, believers practice fasting and confession.
 - To form connections with other believers and build up the church, believers fellowship, worship God, and serve one another.
 - To make a difference in the world, believers prioritize God's work in the church and world.



GROWING IN CHRIST IN ACTION

DECEMBER 13, 2020

- **Pray and commit.** What is one big decision that you are currently facing? Ask the Lord for courage to stand firm in your faith. Commit to prepare for and attend every session of this study.
- **Invest time.** Add an additional thirty minutes each day to your quiet time for the next six weeks to practice the spiritual disciplines covered in this study. Consider memorizing Scripture verses that allow you to recall God's promises and encouragement. Select verses that speak clearly to areas where you face temptation and distraction.



Final thoughts about Spiritual Discipline

- **God has provided many good things for us, but the world seeks to distort them. Due to the reality of false teachers, the apostle John encouraged believers to test the spirits to see if they were from God (1 John 4:1-6).**
- **The Christian life is not merely a series of dos and don'ts, a checklist of behaviors a believer is to either accomplish or avoid. We are saved through faith in Christ alone.**
- **Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, God transforms the life of the believer, conforming that person to the image of Christ. Spiritual disciplines are a means by which this transformation—growth in Christ—takes place.**



Growing in Christ Preparation for learning

Bible.com

- Daily reflection on the topic of joy
- Dates: November 29-December 5
- Bible Study link:
<https://bible.com/p/35593788/461d171824262c1f33822f90649f9ff1>

Resources

- **Matthew 10:22; 24:9**
- **1John 4:1-6**
- **John 10:27-30**
- **Philippians 1:6**
- **Romans 8:28-29**
- **Genesis 1:31**
- **BIBLE-Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth**
- **Bible.com**



Bible Study of Advent
December 13-22, 2020
Illuminate:
an advent series

<https://bible.com/p/36436207/175d779c80bf6b6a95973f32c04494cf>



Next Week: December 20, 2020
Knowing God

Psalm 119:17-24

Who always gives you great
advice?



God Bless You!

Min. Patrick Burrage

734-787-8531

burragep007@gmail.com

Min. Stephanie Burrage

734-787-8553

burragestephanie@comcast.net