



Special Study—Maintaining Discipline  
From VBF sermon 11.3.19

Read *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: Paul is writing to the Church. Therefore, he is not addressing salvation in the passage, but rewards. All Christians will have to stand before the Lord to give an account for their Christian life. The Holy Spirit is having Paul command and challenge the believer to live in discipline to finish strong and obtain the reward. It takes repeated, daily, and sacrificial regimen to the biblical disciplines.

Because the passage uses the illustration that we are in a race, does that mean we are in competition with one another? Are there only so many prizes? Only one? Explain. No, we are team and striving for the common goal together. It is individual only in that I have my part to do with discipline on and for the team.

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Read *1 Corinthians 12:4-6 & Romans 12:4-5*. Continuing that "team" theme, how are we one, yet with diverse gifts, roles, and functions? Just as a human body is one, but has many parts with very different functions, so is the Church. everyone must do their part for the health and effectiveness of the Church. no part can say it's more important than another. We all thrive or fail together.

What makes many Christians adopt a spectator role rather than a competitor role?  
Various answers. Lazy, over-extended in the world, fear, past criticism, lack of biblical instruction, modern church entertainment approach and consumer philosophy (church is about me)...

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Read *Matthew 28:18-20*. Discuss the making of Disciples vs. making Converts.

What were the 7 Godly Disciplines presented on Sunday and what does each look like in our life?

1. The Discipline of Prayer—setting aside a daily time of devoted prayer. (\*your best time)  
*Luke 18:1*
2. The Discipline of Scripture—to read reverently and thoughtfully, every day, a portion of Scripture, following a definite plan. *Deuteronomy 6:6-9 & 8:3*
3. The Discipline of Worship—making the corporate, public worship my weekly priority.  
*Hebrews 10:25 & Psalm 122:1*
4. The Discipline of Money—giving a definite portion of my annual income to the Kingdom. (\* local church first) *1 Corinthians 16:2*
5. The Discipline of Time—using my God-given time wisely and not wasted. Striving to make my daily work a Christian vocation (discuss). *Colossians 3:23-24*
6. The Discipline of Service—to try every day to lift some burden. *Galatians 6:2*
7. The Discipline of Study—to develop my mental strength by careful reading and study (doctrine). *2 Timothy 4:3 & Acts 17:11*

Which Discipline(s) do you struggle with the most?

What small, immediate steps can you take to grow in those areas? The blessing of discipleship. Finding those who are strong in areas you are weak. Learning. Accountability.