

3 – D Discipleship

Devotion, Discipline, and Duty

Sunday, September 25, 2022 April 29, 2012 am

3-D (or 3 dimensional) Technology can be traced back to the early 1980's in Japan by Dr. Hideo Kodama who worked on this layer by layer approach. In simple terms it provides an image that gives the perception of depth.

Well, today I want to share a 3-D approach that will help us not only have the perception of depth (aka Maturity in our Faith) but actually help us to make a deep mature faith as a disciple a reality.

Let's look at 3 elements to growing a deeper more mature faith as a Disciple

Devotion

A Heart and Vision for God

Adapted from Charles Stanley "Life Principles Notes at
<http://www.intouch.org/Content/27938/LP111106.pdf>

Ecclesiastes 12:13... *When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: FEAR God and keep His commands, because this the duty for everyone.*

FEAR = 3372 יָרֵא yare' {yaw-ray'} (314 times)

Meaning: Fear, revere, awe, deep respect, reverence, honor, astonishment, afraid, to terrify

Proverbs 2:1-10...¹ My child, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, ² listening closely to wisdom and directing your heart to understanding; ³ furthermore, if you call out to insight and lift your voice to understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it like hidden treasure, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. ⁷ He stores up success for the upright; He is a shield for those who live with integrity⁸ so that He may guard the paths of justice and protect the way of His loyal followers. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness, justice, and integrity—every good path. ¹⁰ For wisdom will enter your mind, and knowledge will delight your heart.

What does a heart for God look like?

A Desire to Know Him—"When you have a heart for God, you experience an insatiable desire to know Him. It's not a matter of learning facts, but rather a pursuit of an increasingly personal relationship with Him. You want to spend time alone with the Lord in intimate conversation to better understand His character, thoughts, desires, activities, and plans. When I was growing up, I noticed some people in my church didn't

seem very excited about Jesus though they had walked with Him for many years. Their desire for Him had dwindled instead of increased. This can happen to any of us if we get sidetracked and neglect our relationship with the Lord”. (Stanley)

A Desire to Obey Him—"The night before His trial and crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Genuine love for Christ always results in obedience. Knowing this, could you honestly say that you love Jesus?

Is your life one that is characterized by obedience and submission? Consider how you make decisions about things like spending money and using your time. As a believer, you should always be fully surrendered to His will in every aspect of your life”. (Stanley)

A Desire to Share Him—"If you're genuinely devoted to Jesus, you'll want to tell others about Him—the most important person in your life. You shouldn't keep Him to yourself because Christ didn't call followers to private faith. Instead, He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). Fear of criticism shouldn't keep you from telling others about the Savior because they don't share His message. God intends for every person to hear the gospel”. (Stanley)

DISCIPLINE

Adapted from Discipline Determines Destiny...adapted from Charles Stanley "Life Principles Notes"
<http://www.intouch.org/Content/27938/LP110515.pdf>

Ecclesiastes 12:13... *When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: Fear God and KEEP His commands, because this the duty for everyone.*

KEEP = <08104> שָׁמַר (shamar) (1036b) (483 times)
Meaning: to keep, watch, preserve, defend, guard, observe, preserve

I Corinthians 9:23-27...²³ *I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.* ²⁴ *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.* ²⁵ *Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.* ⁶ *Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.* ²⁷ *No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

Self-Discipline and Divine Discipline

Self-discipline is personal training that develops self-control and character, resulting in an orderly and efficient life.

Divine discipline, however, is God's correction in our lives when we step out of His will or disobey Him (Heb.12:5). The Father uses divine discipline to get us back on the right course.

In contrast, self-discipline is what you and I must practice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why is self-discipline necessary?

First, for one simple almost selfish reason,,, it can lessen the need for God's Divine Discipline in our lives. The more we live in right relationship with God and do His will, the less He will need to enact Divine Discipline. Key word here is LESS. We will always need Divine Discipline, and we must remember that it is God's prerogative to discipline us whenever, and however He deems best.

But, back to what we can and should do...We must be Disciples who practice Self-Discipline (even that is in and through the power of the Holy spirit within us, but it d\does require a great deal of effort t from our will and submission.

Secondly, A key element is that Self-discipline is essential to godliness (1 Tim. 4:7-8;1 Pet. 1:15).

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A DISCIPLINED LIFE?

Adapted from Charles Stanley

Have a definite goal or purpose.

Goals clarify what disciplines are needed for achievement.

Detach from things that draw you away from your goals.

Sacrifice those desires that pull you off course. For example, when Jesus decided to go to Samaria, He had to decline other opportunities (John 4:4).

Pursue your objectives with diligence.

Goals of great value demand perseverance. Reflecting on their worth keeps us on course.

Be consistent. Discipline is ineffective if it is practiced one day and neglected the next. But don't let moments of failure defeat you. Instead, keep trying, and consistency will develop.

Say "no" in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, the indwelling presence of the Spirit is available to empower you to be self-controlled.

How do I start being disciplined?

Read God's Word. Spend time reading a portion of Scripture every day.

Pray. Make time to be alone with the Father, eliminating other activities if necessary.

Tithe. Whatever we earn, you and I can always give a tenth to God.

Attend church. Meeting with other believers gives us the opportunity to worship God and grow together”.

(Stanley)

3-d Goals to Set

**Intentionally Read God’s Word Everyday
Deliberately Pray God’s Will Everyday
Consistently Share God’s Love everyday**

Elements Adapted from Duty Dr. Jack Hyles
<http://www.baptist-city.com/sermons/duty.htm>

Duty

Ecclesiastes 12:13... "Let us hear the conclusion of the *whole* matter: FEAR God and KEEP His commandments: for this is the whole DUTY of man."

What is our DUTY... Fear God and Keep His Commands

What is DUTY?

Technically the word ‘Duty’ is not in the Hebrew. It seems to strongly connected by the context

“Duty. That's the difference between mediocrity and greatness. And when mediocrity becomes greatness and goodness becomes best is when the individual comes to a place where that which he ought to do is no longer fun to do but he does it because it is his duty”. (Hyles)

Duty. If we are truly honest with ourselves, many of the things we do because we ‘have to’ or we are “expected to”. That is not totally out of line with a mature Disciple of Jesus. Yes, I have pounded on the concept of service and ministry based on Love for years. I still say that is the ultimate motivation and reason. But the concept of Duty and Love can, and should, go hand in hand. If we truly Love God and Love One Another, then we will choose, out of Love, to be faithful, obedient to DO OUR DUTY. It is not a works based relationship or faith, it is a Love based relationship that calls us, motivates us, and challenges us to DO OUR DUTY...To God as well as to One Another.

It is love based duty, that should keep a spouse faithful in their marriage, it is love based duty that keeps an employee or employer honest in their work and career, it is love based duty that keeps the soldier, the First Responder, the teacher, the garbage collector, or whatever you do... it what gets you up, keeps you at the task and faithful to complete it.

“George Washington's motto was one word—Duty. General Wellington, that famous man who conquered Napoleon, said these words, "There is little in life worth living for but to go straightforward and do our duty. In one tough battle he said to his men, Stand steady, lads. Think of what they will think of us in England." And they replied, "Never fear, sir. We know our duty." Greatness is not in the dining room. Greatness is in the kitchen -somebody diligently prepared that meal for us.

Greatness is not the World Series. Greatness is in spring training. Greatness is not one inspired to great heights but one who works in great depths. Greatness is not found on the ball field. Greatness is found on the practice field. Greatness is not found in performing many great feats. Greatness is found in performing many small duties. For if you are what you ought to be in the practice room, your recital will take care of itself. And if you are what you ought to be in preparation, the performance will take care of itself. And if you are what you ought to be in the study the sermon will take care of itself. And if you are what you ought to be in spring training, the World Series will take care of itself. And if you are what you ought to be in performing those little tasks and little duties that God has given you as your obligation, then the performance and the result and the record will take care of themselves”. (Hyles)

IF You Truly Want to Be a Mature Disciple of Christ

You **MUST COMMIT** to...

DUTY....DISCIPLINE....DEVOTION

WHAT WILL YOU DO