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INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLINESHIP

Learning and Experiencing
The Essentials of the Christian Life

Introduction

Purpose of the Manual
Before You Start

Part I The Life In Christ

Chapter 1 Our Assurance Of Salvation
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Chapter 3 Our Life As A Disciple

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Reverence To God

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Addendum:

My Heart Christ's Home

PART III

THE OUTER DISCIPLINES OF A DISCIPLE

In Part II we looked at the Inner Disciplines - those that affected our knowledge and fellowship with God. This is the vertical relationship with God and His children. In Part III we will learn about the horizontal relationship - how we are to respond to people and the things of this world. The outer disciplines show us how to relate to Christians, non Christians, and the resources that God has entrusted to us while on earth. These disciplines are an overflow of the inner disciplines being present in our lives.

CHAPTER 6

WORSHIP -

KNOWING AND EXPRESSING REVERENCE TO GOD

ASSIGNMENTS:

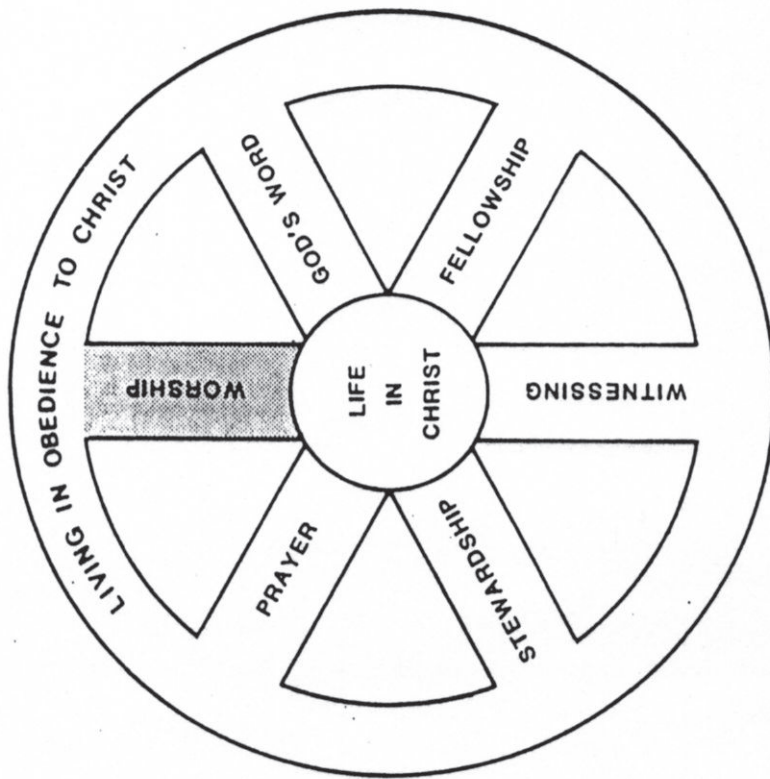
1. Scripture Reading - Psalm 23,33,51,92,96,103,145
Read one chapter each day.
2. Prayer - Use the prayer list page to record your requests and answers.
3. Memorize - John 4:24
Additional verse - Psalm 46:10
4. Study and complete the material in the chapter.
5. Outline the pastor's Sunday sermon.

Outline your daily progress below:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

CHAPTER 6

WORSHIP -
KNOWING AND EXPRESSING REVERENCE TO GOD



We become a part of God's family when we take the family name. We are adopted through the name of Jesus as our Savior. There is no other way. Jesus revealed the process of salvation and God's character and attributes by manifesting the name of God to His disciples. Thus, as they came to know God in a personal way, they could trust Him more fully with their lives (Psalm 9:10; Proverbs 9:10; Hebrews 1:1-3). As we grow in our understanding of

God's name and character we are drawn closer to Him through worship. As we worship, He reveals more of His character.

If worship does not change us, it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change. Resentments cannot be held with the same tenacity when we enter His gracious light. As Jesus said, we will need to leave our gift at the altar and go set the matter straight (Matthew 5:23,24). In worship an increased power steals its way into the heart sanctuary, an increased compassion grows in the soul. To worship is to change.

If worship does not propel us into greater obedience, it has not been worship. Just as worship begins in holy expectancy it ends in holy obedience. Holy obedience saves worship from becoming an opiate, an escape from the pressing needs of modern life. Worship enables us to hear the call to service clearly so that we respond, 'Here I am! Send me' (Isaiah 6:8).

(Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster)

When God created mankind, He created us to have the ability to know our Creator and have fellowship with Him (John 17:3). This is how we differ from the rest of creation; we have a spirit to respond in worship. We will worship something; it could be money, sports, beautiful bodies, God, etc. We will be mastered by whomever or whatever we yield ourselves to. God wants us to know Him and to yield to Him.

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of conscience by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His

purpose - and all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable...

(Readings in St. John's Gospel, William Temple)

KNOWING GOD

Do we put God in a box?



What is it we are supposed to know about God? As we learn God's name and character, we will see the things we are to know about God that will help us to "cease striving" (Psalm 46:10).

GOD IS:	
A. NON-MORAL	B. MORAL
1. Sovereign	7. Righteous
2. Eternal	8. Just
3. Omniscient	9. Loving
4. Omnipresent	10. Truthful
5. Omnipotent	
6. Constant	

NON-MORAL - These attributes are those that belong to God exclusively, so that there is nothing resembling them in a created being or spirit.

MORAL - These attributes also belong to God and are seen in God's relating to mankind. We can see limited manifestations of these attributes in His created beings and spirits.

1. GOD IS SOVEREIGN. The word Sovereign means chief, highest or supreme. When we say that God is sovereign, we are saying that He is the supreme ruler of the universe. He brought it into being and He sustains it by His will. His name is Elohim, "the strong One."

Application - The idea of sovereignty is an encouraging one for it assures the Christian that nothing is out of God's control, and that His plans do triumph.

Scripture -
Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 44:24-26, 46:8-11.

Worship

The results of not believing in God's sovereignty could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

2. GOD IS ETERNAL. There has never been a time when God did not exist. He has no beginning and He has no end. He is life. His name is Jehovah or Yahweh, "the One who exists."

Application - Being eternal, God is not bound by time. Having always existed, He sees the past and the future as clearly as the present. With this perspective, He has a better understanding as to what is best for our lives. Knowing this we should be willing to trust Him with our lives (Proverbs 3:5,6).

Scripture -
Genesis 1:1; 1 Chronicles 29:10-14; Revelation 1:8,17-18.

Some results of not believing in God's eternal nature could be:

Worship

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

3. GOD IS OMNISCIENT. God possesses all the knowledge there is to have. Nothing ever takes Him by surprise. El Elyon, "the most High God."

Application - Think of omniscience in relation to the believer's assurance of salvation, because God knows all, then obviously nothing can come to light which He did not know when He saved us. Knowing all about us, He still forgave our sins and accepted us into His forever family. He is the possessor of heaven and earth.

Scripture -
Hebrews 4:13; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Isaiah 46:9,10.

The results of not believing in God's omniscience could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

Worship

4. GOD IS OMNIPRESENT. God is personally present everywhere through all time and space. His name is Alpha and Omega, "the beginning and the end."

Application - Because God is everywhere, it is foolish to think that we can hide from Him. In the Old Testament, Jonah tried to run from God, but he ended up as fish bait. God's omnipresence also means that a believer may experience the presence of God at all times and know the blessings of walking with Him in a most vivid way (Jonah 1:3,17).

Scripture -
Proverbs 15:3; Isaiah 44:6; Jeremiah 23:24.

The results of not believing in God's omnipresence could be:

The areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

5. GOD IS OMNIPOTENT. God is all powerful, having more than enough strength to do the sum total of all things. His name is El-Shaddai, "the almighty One."

Worship

Application - Because God is all-powerful, the believer is kept secure in his salvation. Salvation comes because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). He is the almighty one with power to do anything and everything at any time. Thus He is our provider, sustainer, and life-giver.

Scripture -
Job 42:2; Psalm 147:5; Ephesians 3:20,21.

The results of not believing in God's omnipotence could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

6. GOD IS CONSTANT. God never changes in his nature, attributes, or actions. His name is Adonai, "Lord, master, the one who is the owner."

Application - The Bible contains thousands of things that God has promised to do for those who belong to Him. He can be trusted to keep His word. As the master of our lives, He can provide all that we need.

Worship

Scripture - Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17.

Some results of not believing in God's unchanging nature could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

7. GOD IS RIGHTEOUS. It is impossible for Him to do or cause anything that is wrong. His name is Jehovah - Tsikenu, "the LORD is our righteousness."

Application - Because God is perfect, He demands perfection from those who would desire to be in His presence. Jesus said, "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). This high standard shows us that salvation is only possible through faith in God.

Scripture - Deuteronomy 32:4; Isaiah 40:25,45:21; Jeremiah 23:6; Romans 3:21-24.

Worship

Some results of not believing in God's righteousness could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

8. GOD IS JUST. God does not show partiality, but is fair in all His judgment. It is impossible for Him to do anything that is not just. He is call our Righteous Judge.

Application - God's justice is most often seen in the area of judgment. All will stand before God to receive His judgment. God's justice should provide comfort to those experiencing wrong in life and a personal challenge to refrain from evil.

Scripture - Romans 2:9-11; 9:14; 2 Timothy 4:8.

Some results of not believing in God's justice could be:

Worship

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

9. GOD IS LOVING. God is perfect, infinite love. His love is given freely and without any consideration to the loveliness or merit of the object. His name is "Love."

Application - Godly love seeks good for the object loved. Love is not just a feeling. It expresses itself in action. God is our example. He demonstrated His love for us in sending Jesus to die in our place (Romans 5:8). Because believers have experienced God's love they now have the capacity to share this same self-sacrificing love with others.

Scripture -
John 3:16; 14:21,23; Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 4:8,16.

Some results of not believing in God's love could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by having a better understanding of this attribute are:

Worship

10. GOD IS TRUTH. God is truthful; He never lies.

Application - Man is constantly searching for truth, but in sources other than God. Jesus said, "I am the truth," but because of sin man has rejected the truth. He has exchanged the truth of God for lies (Romans 1:25). When a person comes to Jesus real freedom begins. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). He is called "truth".

Scripture -
Titus 1:2; Numbers 23:19.

Some results of not believing in God's truth could be:

Areas of my life that could be improved by a better understanding of this attribute are:

A suggestion; list each attribute of God separately on a 3"x5" card. As you read God's word and find these attributes, write the reference on the respective card. This will be a personal resource in your worship of God. Start with Psalm 33; see if you can find all ten attributes.

Knowing God is critically important for living our lives (Psalm 9:10). The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business for those who do not know about God. Not to know God is to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, with no sense of direction and no

Worship

understanding of what is happening around us. Knowing God will give us clear direction and an understanding about the world around us. In addition, our worship is only as pure as our high or low thoughts of God. It has been said that *our view of God is only as big as the smallest thing that upsets us*. Without a doubt, the mightiest thoughts the mind can entertain are the thoughts of God. This makes it immensely important that our ideas concerning God should correspond as nearly as possible to that which is true of God. True worship allows God to manifest His attributes in our lives.

EXPRESSING REVERENCE TO GOD

In true worship there is a dynamic dialogue between God and His people. This we refer to as the drama of worship. Of paramount importance is this fact: God is the one who initiates while we respond. The more involved we become in the progression the more completely we experience His name and character.

Worship

THE ACTIONS OF GOD THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

1. God reveals His name and character to us and draws us to Himself. Isaiah 6:1-3

Conviction.

2. We acknowledge God with awe, wonder, reverence, adoration, praise. Isaiah 6:3-4

3. God reveals to us our sin and moves us to confess it.

Confession.

4. We confess our sin to God, seeking His forgiveness and cleansing. Isaiah 6:5

5. God forgives us and cleanses us of our sin. Isaiah 6:6-7

Cleansing.

6. We now release other burdens to the Lord through prayers of petition and intercession

7. God receives those requests and relieves us of the burden.

Communion.

8. We respond with gratitude to God for His grace and mercy

9. God speaks to us and reveals His will for our lives. Isaiah 6:8a

Consecration.

10. We respond by submitting ourselves to God to do whatever He desires. Isaiah 6:8b

11. God is pleased and seals our decision by His Spirit, commissioning us to do His work in the world. Isaiah 6:9-10

Committation.

12. We leave this encounter with God as restored, refreshed, recommissioned people to serve God in the world. Isaiah 6:11

THOUGHT QUESTIONS

1. If God is Sovereign, how should we look at our lives in times of trouble?

2. What does having eternal life mean to you?

3. How does knowing that God is omniscient make a difference in your life?

4. How does knowing that God is omnipresent affect you? Does it help you, bless you, encourage you, or bother you? Explain.

5. Share an example from present times of how you can be confident that God can and will take care of you despite difficult circumstances.

6. Have you ever thought that God has changed? What verses remind you that God is always the same?

7. How does understanding God's righteousness affect your growth in holiness?

8. Visualize yourself standing before the judgment seat of God. What do you think God would say to you?

9. What does loving sacrificially mean to you?

10. Seeing the falsehood of the world around you, how does knowing that God is truth impact your faith?

Worship

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Names Of God , Nathan Stone

Your God Is Too Small , J.B. Phillips

Worship Is A Verb , Robert E. Webber

Knowledge Of The Holy , A. W. Towzer