

Disciplines

Solitude, could be a nice way of saying isolation. Solitude is not the discipline God is looking for to be developed. Yet solitude could help us learn to slow down and listen for the true discipline God desires for us, but we must learn to listen, otherwise solitude could just be isolation.

1. training to act in accordance with rules; drill:
military discipline.

2. activity, exercise, or a regimen that develops or improves a skill; training:
<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/discipline>

Discipline is action or inaction that is regulated to be in accordance (or to achieve accord) with a system of governance.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discipline>

a : control gained by enforcing obedience or order

b : orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior

c : self-control

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discipline>

(NIV)

Proverbs 10:17 Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.

Proverbs 15:10 Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die.

Deuteronomy 8:5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

Job 5:17 "Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

Psalms 94:12 Blessed is the one you discipline, Lord, the one you teach from your law;

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke,

Proverbs 3:12 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 5:23 For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid.

Proverbs 13:18 Whoever disregards discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.

Proverbs 13:24 Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

Proverbs 15:32 Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.

Proverbs 19:20 Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.

Proverbs 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.

Proverbs 23:13 [Saying 13] Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.

Proverbs 29:17 Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire.

Jeremiah 17:23 Yet they did not listen or pay attention; they were stiff-necked and would not listen or respond to discipline.

Psalms 6:1 Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

1 Corinthians 4:21 What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod of discipline, or shall I come in love and with a gentle spirit?

1 Corinthians 9:24 [The Need for Self-Discipline] 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.

1 Corinthians 11:32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

Colossians 2:5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

2 Timothy 1:7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Titus 1:8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

Hebrews 12:4-12

God Disciplines His Children

⁴ In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”^[a]

⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,”^[b] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Proverbs 5:12

¹² You will say, “How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!
¹³ I would not obey my teachers
or turn my ear to my instructors.
¹⁴ And I was soon in serious trouble
in the assembly of God’s people.”

God desires us to be disciples of God’s principles, code, statutes, commands, ways, paths, and teachings. Love, mercy, truth, patience, peace, forgiveness, justice, humility, sincerity, and compassion toward a clean conscience and a pure heart are the disciplines to spiritual freedom and joy. Yet we must be putting them into practice daily. Then, we will have something to meditate on, reflect with, learn from, and pray about.

Although, solitude and prayer are important methods of engaging with God, they can be unconsciously used with evil motives, interests, and attitudes. Selfishness can be present in the experience and sabotage love.

Servitude ~ according to Matthew

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 10:24 “The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Servants can be wicked

Matthew 18:32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’

Matthew 24:48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’

Matthew 25:26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Some questions for discussion

Can we perform the act of service and be wicked?

Would it be best to put into our consciousness an attitude of Truth, sincerity, and love with humility and gentleness before serving each other? Can we pray for that? And how different it can be if we do this?