

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

TEN DISCIPLINES FOR LIFE

Top Ten lists are popular things these days.

Radio stations have a weekly top 10 song list; country, jazz, Christian, rock.

There are top 10 movie lists; comedy, action, romance; sci fi.

Top 10 richest people in the world.

Top 10 most famous people in the world.

Ten worst countries for religious freedoms.

I guess that is technically a bottom 10 list.

Top 10 minecraft songs.

Top 10 android games.

Top 10 Spongebob songs, Justin Bieber.

Top 10 beaches.

Just go to google and type in top ten and any other letter.

Top 10 Zombie movies or zoos.

Well let's look at a top ten list from the Bible.

It may not be a popular list.

Some of you may not appreciate it.

Because the title of this list uses the word "Discipline".

Oh we don't like that word.

If we did a top ten least favorite words, discipline could be there.

Discipline strikes us as anti-freedom.

Our Scripture this morning talks about discipline.

Discipline is often equated with punishment (v. 5).

Discipline carries with it the idea of chastisement (v. 6).

Discipline is often considered something to endure (v. 7).

Verse 11 tells us discipline seems more painful than pleasant.

But our passage describes discipline more as beauty than brutality.

Discipline can be an expression of deep love (v. 6)

Discipline shows that someone really cares and treats us like family (v. 8).

Discipline teaches respect (v. 9)

Discipline enhances life (v. 9).

Discipline is for our good so it makes us better (v. 10).

Discipline makes us partakers of God's holiness (v. 10).

Discipline brings peace and righteousness (v. 11).

Discipline trains and equips us for life (v. 11).

Discipline is an antidote to bitterness (v. 15)

Discipline protects us from causing trouble (v. 15).

Discipline exposes us to purity rather than defilement (v. 15).

Discipline brings blessing (v. 17).

To be loved deeply, and equipped, and to be blessed and righteous.

To live with respect, peace, better, holiness, purity.

It should be everyone's desire to experience God's discipline.

We should be considered crazy if we avoid discipline.

The most beautiful testimony we can have is, they lived a disciplined life.

But that is easier said than done in the world in which we live.

We live in a very undisciplined world.

And there is only one way we can experience these disciplines.

This is part of God's will for your life.

And what God wills, He also enables.

He has given us the wonderful gift of His Spirit.

The abiding presence of the Spirit blossoms into spiritual fruit.

This is not a mind-over-matter discipline.

This isn't just about muddling through the messy times of life.

Total reliance on our Heavenly Father makes discipline a reality.

Not by might nor by strength but by My Spirit says the Lord.

A true person of God will embrace these disciplines.

Here are 10 biblical disciplines of a godly man or woman.

1. Humility

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be *humble*, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." (Philippians 2:3-5)

2. Purity

"We prove ourselves by our **purity**, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love." (2 Cor. 6:6)

3. Kindness

"God is kind, but he's not soft. In **kindness** he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change." (Romans 2:4, Proverbs 3:3)

4. Patience

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control" (Gal 5:22)

5. Forgiveness

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and **forgive** anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord **forgave** you, so you must **forgive** others." (Colossians 3:13)

6. Understanding

"Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on **understanding**." (Prov. 2:2, 10:13)

7. Integrity

"People with **integrity** walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed." (Proverbs 10:9)

8. Faithfulness

"Jesus said to the people who believed in him, 'You are truly my disciples if you remain **faithful** to my teachings.'" (John 8:31, 1 Cor. 1:9) "God will make this happen, for he who calls you is **faithful**." (1 Thess. 5:24)

9. Sacrifice

"Greater love has no one than this: to **lay down** one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

10. Love

"So we have come to know and to believe the **love** that God has for us. God is **love**, and whoever abides in **love** abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4:16; Colossians 3:14)

These 10 disciplines are used by God to call and empower us to live.

Superimpose those disciplines against your own life.

Do you see evidence of their presence?

These disciplines are given so that we might be a reflection of God.

And with them at work in our lives God's will is no longer a struggle.

We can be confident that how we live lines up perfectly with God's will.

Hebrews 13:1-6 puts all these disciplines into a practical context. (v.6 on PPT)