

2. Practical (I may overuse this word..it is big in my vocabulary as opposed to "theoretical"). Consider 2 Timothy 4:5 and the emphasis on "watch". Note 3:12 and be prepared for the reality of persecution. Timothy does not live in an ivory tower separated from the society about him so he must be practical and alert in his faith.

3. Emotional. I hope I am not stretching things like this but I think it is a bona fide concept...he will not let his emotions run away with him or color his judgments;. See 1 Tim 6:6-8 to see this better described.

B. Have a specific purpose: Paul typifies this for us in 1 Corinthians 9 and in Philippians 3. He tells us how he accomplished it in 2 Timothy 4. With a goal in mind you train and condition yourself so that you are strong enough, have enough endurance to make it. Purpose must be seen in two levels: 1) an overall purpose for life and 2) an immediate purpose for the present setting.

C. Make full use of your skills: Timothy receives this urging in 2 Timothy 2:2 as well as in 4:6. It is not just a matter of being busy but a matter of using whatever gifts the Lord has given and using them vigorously.

III. Conclusion: These are three of the big steps in a disciplined life and a disciplined life is one of the foundation stones for spiritual living. Please remember we cannot reduce this matter to a formula of hours or minutes, duties or privileges. It is something the individual develops for oneself with the help of the Word of God and the aid of the Holy Spirit. Not being disciplined we lose both time and opportunity and are often left with an attitude of defeat knowing that we could have been more faithful but were careless and did not achieve the right end of the particular action. I am glad we are saved by grace but we should not be presumptive about it.

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MESSAGE # 5: THE RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

Biblical Passages 1 Timothy 2:1-7

I. Introducing the Subject