

4. Study

- a. By definition study is the application of the mind to the understanding of truth and the meaning and application of the Word of God.
- b. Biblical instruction:
 - (1) 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14 ff
 - (2) 1 Peter 2:2
- c. In practice:
 - (1) Acts 2:42
 - (2) Acts 15:15 ff
 - (3) Acts 20:20 ff
- d. As a discipline, study challenges us to concentrate on the eternal and life changing truths of God and His Word. Mere fleshly study can be exhausting (Ecclesiastes 12) but the study of the Word of God is invigorating and one will never study too much or come to the point where one "knows it all."

C. The Temporal Disciplines

Whereas our first four disciplines were essentially spiritual and matters of the heart, these are disciplines somewhat external and confining. Some are thought of as "punishments" but that is much too narrow a designation for our overall thinking. In the study of these we often meet judgments and pronouncements...of which we must exercise great care since the work is of the Father and not of us....and I will try to explain that in some limited way.

1. The Discipline of Adversity

- a. By definition: When things just go against you! It should not be a case of deliberate or personal disobedience---not a product of impetuous or careless behavior. It is a matter of contrary events going against you...somehow allowed in the will of God!
- b. The character of adversity: 2 Corinthians 1:16-28
 - trials of life
 - persecution
 - travel disorders