

SPIRITUAL SUCCESS THROUGH DISCIPLINE

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 – “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to win a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one.” (Revised Standard Version)

TO BE A SPIRITUAL SUCCESS...

DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLE #1 – I HAVE TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS

Proverbs 25:28 – “A person without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls.” (Living)

DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLE #2 – I HAVE TO CONTROL MY WORDS

Proverbs 13:3 – “He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.” (NIV)

Proverbs 21:23 – “Keep your mouth closed and you'll stay out of trouble.” (Living)

DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLE #3 – I HAVE TO CONTROL MY TEMPER

Proverbs 19:11 – “If you are sensible, you will control your temper. When someone wrongs you, it is a great virtue to ignore it.” (Good News)

George Washington Carver: “I will never allow another man to control my life by making me hate him.”

Proverbs 16:32b – “It is better to win control over yourself than over whole cities.” (Good News)

DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLE #4 – I HAVE TO CONTROL MY MONEY

Proverbs 21:20 – “The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.” (Living)

The average American family saves 3% annually. Canada 5%; Spain and Germany 9%; Australia 11%, and France 15%.

Average American credit card debt (2017) is \$15,983.

DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLE #5 – I HAVE TO CONTROL MY PHYSICAL APPETITES

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 – [3] *“God’s will for you is to stay away from sexual sin. [4] Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable.”* (New Living)

DEVELOPING A PLAN OF DISCIPLINE – TO HELP ME BE GOD’S MAN OR WOMAN

#1 – ADMIT MY LACK OF DISCIPLINE

Romans 7:15 & 18 – [15] *“I do not understand what I do: for I don’t do what I would like to, but instead I do what I hate! [18] For even though the desire to do good is in me, I am not able to do it.”* (Good News)

#2 – BELIEVE GOD WILL HELP ME

Philippians 2:13 – *“God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.”* (New Living)

#3 – FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLE OF POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Philippians 4:8 -9b – [8] *“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. [9b] ...Then the God of peace will be with you.”* (New Living)

#4 – PREPARE NOW FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLES

Proverbs 13:16 – *“A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn’t and even brags about it!”* (Living)

Ephesians 6:13 – *“So put on God’s armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy’s attacks.”* (Good News)

#5 – ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THOSE YOU TRUST

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 – *“Two are better than one...because if one falls down, the other can help him up. Two can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone.”* (Good News)

#6 – VIEW EVERYTHING IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR ETERNAL REWARD

Hebrews 11:24-26 [Moses] – *“By faith, Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter... and chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin...for he was looking ahead to his great reward.”* (New Living)

Potential rewards of personal discipline:

- *Financially: Get out of debt
- *Morally: Have a clear conscience
- *Physically: Feel good and have more energy
- *Spiritually: Experience the peace of God that passes all understanding
- *Emotionally: Have confidence in my relationship with God

Romans 8:6 – *“To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace.”* (Good News)