

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 4, 2020

Theme: Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth Topic: Devotion to the word.

Main Text: 2Timothy 2:1-15, 2Timothy 3:10-17; Psalm 119:9-16

Key verse: 2Tim 3:16-17: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: One crucial lesson which emerged from our studies on ‘The Certainty of God’s Word’ is that we have a role to play to appropriate God’s promises. Our focus this quarter is on ‘Spiritual Discipline for Christian Growth.’ The aim is to consolidate on the gains from last quarter series. According to Don Whitney, spiritual disciplines are those practices found in Scripture that promote spiritual growth among followers of Jesus Christ. The essence is to deepen the believer’s relationship with God and consequently build his/her “muscles” of character which then manifest as he relates with people around him/her. In 2 Timothy 2:4-6, Apostle Paul portrays the Christian life like that of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. His goal being to help believers appreciate the importance of discipline in the Christian race when he said *“No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor’s crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.”* (NIV)

- 1. (a) How do the images of Soldier, Athlete and Farmer help you understand the concept of spiritual discipline? (b) Why do you think spiritual disciplines are not popular among many Christians? E.g. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (c) How is spiritual discipline for Christian growth different from the showy outward observances of the Pharisees which Jesus denounced? See. Matthew 6:1-7**

An aspect of spiritual discipline is devotion to God’s word. The apostles recognized the prominence of God’s word when they purposed that *“we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word”* (Acts 6:4). And they got the new believers to do likewise as in Acts 2:42-47. And Apostle Paul understood the importance of the word of God in the life of a believer. Therefore, in the final notes to his young protégé, Timothy, he commanded Timothy *“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (2 Timothy 3:14-15 NKJV)

- 2. (a) What are some benefits of a devotion to the word of God as outlined in 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15 (b) Mark 12:30 commands believers to love God with all one’s heart, soul and mind and strength. How can one apply this command in the devotion to God’s word? (c) See 2 Timothy 2:15. What do you understand by the phrase “correctly handles the word of truth”? And why is it important?**

The dictionary defines ‘devote’ as ‘to give your time or effort completely to something you believe in or to a person, or to use a particular amount of time or energy doing something.’ To effectively devote ourselves to the word, we must use all our senses – heart, soul, mind, strength. And the Psalmist cries to God with *“With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!”* (Psalm 119:10). And it is not enough to express our desire to obey God, we need to follow that desire with concrete actions.

- 3. (a) What are some steps the Psalmist took in his devotion to the word of God? See Psalm 119:9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16. (b) The Bible speaks about 6 disciplines of the word of God. What are they? See Romans 10:17; Deuteronomy 17:18; 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:11; Joshua 1:8 (b) How does 2 Timothy 2:15’ ‘Be diligent...’ help answer the question of a believer who claims not to have time for the word of God?**

Prayer: *Father, let your Holy Spirit help me to show enough devotion to your word, and let the fruit of this devotion, which is obedience, be seen in me. Amen.*