



September 18, 2016

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Discipline Over Regret

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; I have overcome the world. **John 16:33 (AMP)**

I am choosing the _____ of discipline over the _____ of regret.

¹⁵ What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. ¹⁶ So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary. **Romans 7:15-16 (MSG)**

¹⁷ But I need something *more!* For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! ¹⁸ I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. ¹⁹ I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. ²⁰ My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

Romans 7:17-20 (MSG)

²¹ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. ²² I truly delight in God's commands, ²³ but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

Romans 7:21-23 (MSG)

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

Romans 7:24 (MSG)

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind....

Romans 7:25a (MSG)

However, the _____, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you. **John 14:26 (GW)**

What is it that should motivate us to discipline ourselves for godliness?

- The fact that _____ issues are at stake
- The fact of a living God
- The fact of Salvation

What is and is not discipline

- Discipline is an ongoing process, not a quick fix.
- Discipline involves hard work. "We labor and strive"
- Discipline means discarding hindrances
- Discipline means keeping your eyes on the goal
- Discipline means managing your time in line with your goals.
- Discipline is not driving yourself relentlessly
- Discipline is not being so rigid that you are insensitive to what God is doing.

How do we implement discipline?

- By being constantly nourished in the truths of the faith by spending time in God's Word
- By being obedient to the truths of the faith
- By having your mind transformed.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV11)

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Give my heart and mind to Jesus Christ so I can be transformed into His image.
- Discard this hindrance _____ in my life that is interfering with becoming more godly.
- Choose discipline over regret
- Study / meditate on Romans 12:2