

DISCIPLINE: FIRST THINGS FIRST
Developing Winning Character – Part 3
August 24, 2008

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of **self-discipline**.”*

1. DISCIPLINE IS _____ GRATIFICATION

Hebrews 12:11 (NIV) *“No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it **produces a harvest of righteousness and peace** for those who have been trained by it.”*

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS...

- **Do the first things _____!**

“Delaying gratification is a process of scheduling the pain and pleasure of life in such a way as to enhance the pleasure by meeting and experiencing the pain first and getting it over with.”

Scott Peck, The Road Less Traveled

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) Jesus said, *“But **seek first His** (God’s) **kingdom and His righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

- **No _____, no _____.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CEV) *“Everything in the Scriptures is **God's Word**. All of it is useful for **teaching** and **helping** people and for **correcting** them and **showing** them **how to live**.¹⁷ The Scriptures **train** God's servants **to do** all kinds of **good deeds**.”*

2. DISCIPLINE IS _____ DECISION MAKING.

Hebrews 5:13-14 (NIV) “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the **mature**, who by constant use have **trained themselves to distinguish** good from evil.”

PRACTICAL AREAS OF DECISION...

- Your _____ health

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NLT) Paul said, “**I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.**”

- Your mastery of _____

A realistic written out personal **BUDGET** is an effective way to make an advance decision to use your money wisely.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (TLB) “On every Lord’s Day each of you should **put aside something from what you have earned during the week... The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn...**”

- Your _____ relationships

Romans 12:10 (GW) “**Be devoted to each other like a loving family. Excel in showing respect for each other.**”

- Your _____ with God

1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (NIV) “**Train yourself to be godly.** ⁸ For **physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.**”

1 Corinthians 9:25 (NIV) “Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”