



Shiloh Messenger

September 2017

Identity, How We View Ourselves (pt.8)

Spiritual Disciplines:

One tool that is very useful in our path of growing in who we are is to practice the spiritual disciplines. Paul refers to reading Scripture as a means to train ourselves in the ways of righteousness (see previous section):

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Spiritual disciplines are simply practices that we do in an effort to open ourselves up to the work of the Lord within us. Generally, spiritual disciplines fall into two categories: disciplines of abstinence and disciplines of engagement.

Disciplines of Abstinence

Solitude: Spending time alone without other people or any of the distractions of life.

Silence: Time spent with no noise, just you and God.

Fasting: Abstaining from food, entertainment, or anything else.

Frugality: Using your money on others' needs instead of your own.

Chastity/abstinence: Abstaining from sexual relations.

Secrecy: Choosing not to disclose motivations or information that you could.

Sacrifice: Giving of yourself willingly to learn to live with less and give more to others.

Waiting on the Lord: Withdrawing yourself to commune with the presence of the Lord.

Disciplines of Engagement

Study: Memorization and thoughtful meditation on Scripture.

Worship: Both corporately and alone. Not necessarily requiring music or song.

Celebration: Practicing gratitude and thanksgiving with yourself and other believers.

Service: Giving of your time and energy to your church or to others.

Prayer: Time spent intentionally engaging in relationship with other believers.

Confession: Owning and revealing the sin you've committed to another believer.

Submission: Proper recognition and respect for the authority God has established.

Speaking in Tongues: Practicing a personal prayer language that strengthens your spirit.

Ministry Prayer: Ministering to others (or receiving ministry prayer) with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Generally, disciplines of abstinence are designed to break down the worldview of the flesh, and disciplines of engagement build of the mind of the Spirit.

I'd suggest practicing a variety of these disciplines and discovering your own needs and rhythm with them. Different people tend to be drawn to different disciplines; and at different points in your life, different disciplines will connect with you more than others. Learning to practice connecting with God and drawing our life from Him through the seasons of our spiritual walk is a joy and keeps us focused on moving forward in everything.

Update: New Dorm to House More Men

Over the past couple of years we have had a waiting list for potential students. With a waiting list comes consequences. Many men have to wait for 90 days & we often lose them after that period. We do have a referral list of other ministries, but most of them insist upon being put on our waiting list. They tell us it is our success in ministry to others they know or it is them visiting our website that they choose to wait. The Lord spoke to me last year and told me He wanted another Dorm built. We complied and began construction last fall. We now have a 45 by 75 Ft. exterior building, that needs completion on the inside. This includes, Ceiling Tile & grid, Hot Water Heater (50 gal.), 2 five ton Air Conditioning Units, & Stained Concrete flooring.

The approximate cost remaining for completing the Dormitory is \$9,325.00. We ask that you pray about what The Lord would have you do to help us in restoring His most valuable and precious asset, "People." With your financial gift, it will make possible for us to quickly complete the Dormitory project, so we can mentor more broken men, for The Glory of Christ!!!!

Thank you again, to everyone who co-labors with us in reconciling men with God, so restoration can begin.

We love you,

Rocky & Debbie Fondren

(Shiloh Ministries is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 charitable organization. All financial gifts are tax deductible at the end of the year)

Graduates Testimony

Throughout my entire life I've lived and determined my worth by a set of moral and ethical principles driven by how much value the world and people placed on me. Consequently, I had this huge empty void inside my heart that I tried to fill with drugs, alcohol, women, and materialistic things the world finds it's worth it. I was at the center of my own world and my desires and flesh were at the core of my heart; I thought I was only worth what other people thought of me. Despite growing up in church and having God-fearing and loving parents, my sociopathic behavior turned church, God, and relationships into a systematic routine void of any true love and compassion towards Jesus and people. The world I had worked so hard to create for myself, by my own choices, had finally come crashing down and burying me under the idolatrous structure I built for myself. I finally hit rock bottom when the drinking and partying on top of materialistic relationships finally led me to an abrupt dead end, causing me to become completely broken and empty. "We are God's workmanship" (Eph 2:10), His masterpiece, and he will never leave us or forsake us. He is proud of us, and it breaks the Father's heart to see His children struggle. Fortunately, God in his unconditional love answered my cry out to Him and answered my parent's prayers by strategically placing people in position to help guide me to Shiloh Ministries! Upon arriving at Shiloh, Holy Spirit began to work in me and layer by layer began to reveal the Joshua he originally created me to be, and for the first time in my life, God became the center. This turned into a true desire to show God and others true love, not out of a set of moral and ethical principles, but out of an honest desire to form relationships and to represent Jesus in the manner I was designed to (**Josh Gary**).



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