

Pursuing that Good Part



by Sandy Baker

Luke 10:38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, doest thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

But one thing is needful:

*And Mary hath **chosen that good part**, which shall not be taken away from her.*



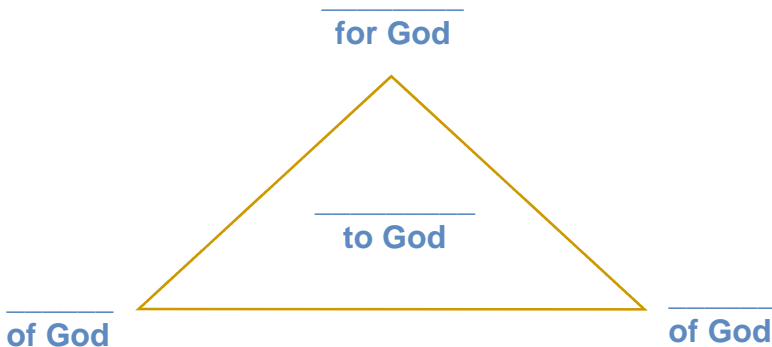
I Timothy 4:7, 8

But on the other hand, **discipline** yourself for the purpose of **godliness**; For bodily discipline is only of little profit but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

discipline – _____

godliness – from *well* and *to be devout*, denotes that piety (reverence for God) which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is _____

Jerry Bridges in *The Practice of Godliness*, states “There is a price to godliness, and godliness is never on sale. It never comes cheaply or easily.” (44) “It is impossible to practice godliness without a _____, _____, and _____ intake of the word of God in our lives.” (54, 55)



Psalm 105:4

*Seek the Lord and His strength;
Seek His face continually.*

Psalm 1

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in
the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor standeth in the way of sinners,
Nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the **Law of the Lord**,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
That bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
His leaf also shall not wither;
And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*



Practical Thoughts

A.W. Tozer said in *The Pursuit of God*, “Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. (15) David’s life was a torrent of spiritual desire, and his psalms ring with the cry of the seeker and the glad shout of the finder. Paul confessed the mainspring of his life to be his burning desire after Christ. ‘That I may know him,’ was the goal of his heart, and to this he sacrificed everything.” (16)

Prayer is _____

Jeremiah 33:3

*Call unto me, and I will **answer** thee, And shew thee great and mighty (hidden) things, which thou knowest not.*

Ephesians 3:20, 21

*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we **ask** or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

- ☞ Call on the basis of a relationship
 - ☞ Call with humility
 - ☞ Call continually
 - ☞ Call persistently
- ☞ Call using Scripture
 - ☞ Call believingly
- ☞ Call in the Savior's name



Practical Thoughts

“Who ever lived a busier life than our Saviour? Yet who found more time for prayer? If we truly yearn to be suppliants and intercessors before God and use all the available time we now have, He will so order things for us that we shall have more time.” (47)

Memorization

Psalm 119:11

*Thy word have I **hid** in mine heart
that I might not sin against thee.*

Proverbs 22:17-19

*Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,
And **apply your mind** to my knowledge;
For it will be pleasant if you **keep them within you**,
that they may be ready on your lips.
So that your trust may be in the Lord,
I have taught you today, even you. (NASB)*

Memorization supplies _____

Memorization strengthens _____

Memorization adds _____

Memorization stimulates _____



Practical Thoughts

Meditation

Joshua 1:8

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;
But thou shalt **meditate** therein day and night,
That thou mayest observe to do according to
all that is written therein:
For then thou shalt make thy way prosperous,
And then thou shalt have good success.*

Meditate – _____

Whitney (60) suggests that we ask questions of the text:
Does this text reveal something I should ...

- ❧ believe about God?
- ❧ praise or thank or trust God for?
- ❧ pray about for myself or others?
- ❧ have a new attitude about?
- ❧ make a decision about?
- ❧ do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself?



Practical Thoughts

In *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (55), Whitney quotes Maurice Roberts who said, “Our age has been sadly deficient in what may be termed spiritual greatness. At the root of this is the modern disease of shallowness. We are all too impatient to meditate on the faith we profess.... It is not the busy skimming over religious books or the careless hastening through religious duties which makes for a strong Christian faith. Rather, it is unhurried meditation on gospel truths and the exposing of our minds to these truths that yields the fruit of sanctified character.”



Bibliography

Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

Barbara Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Woman*

A.W. Pink, *Profiting from the Word*

A. W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*

Joanna Weaver, *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*

Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*