



1

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

2

"Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing." Ephesians 2:7-10 The Message

3

Paul's explanation of the PURPOSE and PROGRESS of the Christian life.

Grace is available only through God's action. We cannot earn it, force it, or take credit for it.

It is through faith that this miracle of grace is made possible.

4

"It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus...for when we are in union with Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor the lack of it makes any difference at all; what matters is faith that works through love." Galatians 3:26; 5:6

5

"As the body without the spirit is dead, faith without action is dead." James 2:26

"Spiritual gifts are new traits of human character and behavior unknown before our new humanity in Christ."

Charles Bryant, *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts*, 27

6

“Whether we speak of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit, the gifts are a means of transmitting the powerful and purposeful divine presence into the flesh and blood of humanity. It is an intimacy with God that sheds light on the active presence of the resurrected Christ. It is an inner power that makes the whole person receptive and obedient to a new way of living abundantly and effectively in service to God’s kingdom (John 10:10). In essence, **this empowering is a continued incarnation**, the fulfillment of our Lord’s promises: “The one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works” (John 14:12); and “On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (John 14:20).” *Ibid*, 27

7

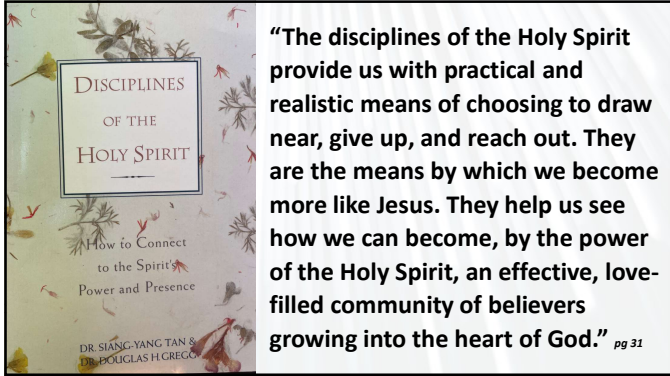
“It is a deep relationship to God that leads to a transformed lifestyle and spiritually empowered ministry...the deepest longing of the human heart can be met only through relationship to God—conformity of our hearts and minds to the life and character of Jesus Christ. This journey into true spirituality requires the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. [Spiritual disciplines] connect with the presence and power of the Spirit; our yielding to the power and influence of the Holy Spirit through the practice of the disciplines gives him space to speak to us and guide us, to fill us and empower us, to turn us around and transform us.”

Dr. Siang-Yang Tan & Dr. Douglas H. Gregg, *Disciplines of the Holy Spirit*, pg 8.

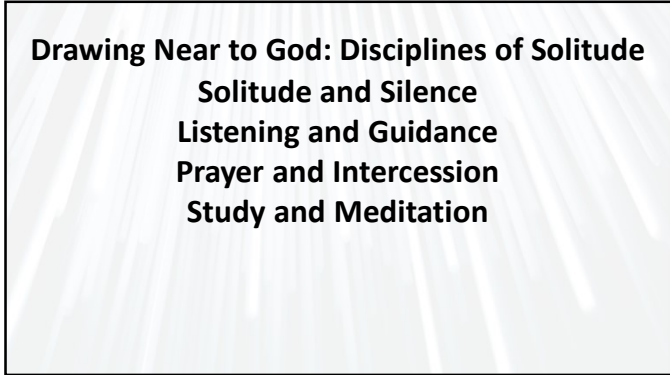
8

Spiritual formation; the process of being formed, transformed, and conformed to the image of Jesus Christ for the glory of God and for the sake of others.

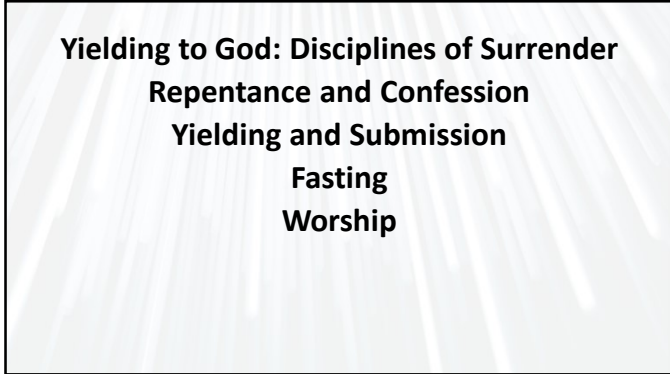
9



10



11



12

Reaching Out to Others: Disciplines of Service
Fellowship
Simplicity
Service
Witness

13

Spiritual Gifts are not acquired skills or natural talents <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/story-god-money/>

Spiritual gifts are not roles

Spiritual gifts are not the fruit of the Spirit

14

Spiritual gifts are not for self gain

Spiritual gifts are not divisive

Spiritual gifts are not the same for everyone

15

Spiritual gifts are unmerited blessings from God

Spiritual gifts are descriptions for ministries

Spiritual gifts are a means for discovering God's will

16

Spiritual gifts are securities for health and growth

Spiritual gifts are the revealed presence of the living Christ

Spiritual gifts are the guarantor of lasting results

17

“...what we're 'here for' is to become genuine human beings, reflecting the God in whose image we're made, and doing so in worship on the one hand and in mission, in its full and large sense, on the other; and that we do this ...by 'following Jesus.' The way this works out is that it produces, through the work of the Holy Spirit, a transformation of character.”

N. T. Wright, *After You Believe: Why Christian Character Matters*, pg 26.

18

A daily prayer for the beginning of each day as you grow in your understanding of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for your love for me. I want to confess my sins to you as specifically as possible *[take a few minutes, guided by the Spirit, to confess].*

I am sorry for doing things that are wrong and that displease you. I thank you that by the blood of Jesus Christ I can now receive your forgiveness and cleansing.

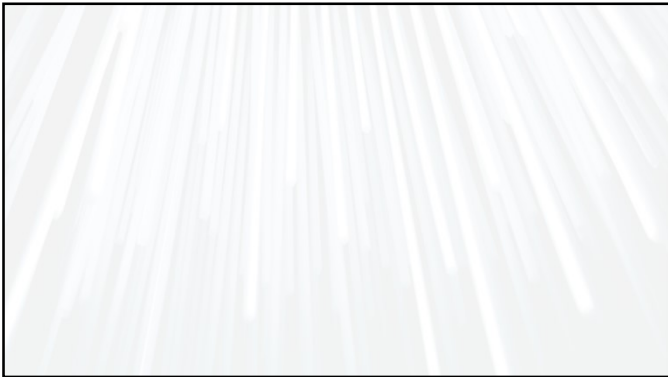
I want to yield to you every area of my life, including those areas where I might have strayed *[take a few minutes, with the help of the Spirit, to surrender anything in question].*

I pray, in the name of Jesus, that you will fill me with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, that you will enable me today to become more like Jesus and to do what will glorify you, touch lives, and bring people closer to you. I commit to you all the events of this day *[take a few minutes to list the events of your day and the people you will encounter].*

I ask that you will glorify yourself through me today and draw me closer to you.

Thank you, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

19



20