

# The Spiritual Disciplines of David

## The Church

- **Psalm 66:13** I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows,

## Giving and being a part of the Church

### Giving

Here we want to look at the Spiritual Discipline of giving. The Bible has a lot to say about money, but today we will focus on the Spiritual discipline.

### Principles of Freedom

Grace gives us freedom. We declare we are free from sin. We are free from the law. We are free from the curse.

And we are free. *But do we live free?*

I want to live free in every area of my life. But what does that look like.

- Free from the enemy – The devil made me do it is no longer applicable
- Free from sin – I do not have to sin. I don't have to obey an urge or an impulse or do something wrong out of habit.
- Free from the law – I don't have to live by a list of do's or don'ts to find my acceptance by God.
- Free from the curse – Not being able to live up to the law no longer brings a curse as Jesus bore that by becoming a curse

But just like any freedom, true freedom comes by trading what you are a slave to, to being under something else.

- We trade being a slave to the enemy for walking in authority
- We trade being a slave to sin for being a slave to righteousness
- We trade being bound to the law for having a relationship with Jesus Christ
- We trade being slave to the curse to being co-heirs (sonship) with Christ

**But when we stop doing the thing we traded for, we may fall back into perceived bondage.**

We all have a condition. I call it the Garlic and Leek syndrome. We are free for a while, but we forget what it feels like being bound. We forget what a bad situation really was like.

**Numbers 11:4-6** Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? <sup>5</sup> We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup> but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

### **I believe that people in large still live as slaves to something. Money.**

- Money is such an important topic in the Bible that it is the main subject of nearly half of the parables Jesus told. In addition, one in every seven verses in the New Testament deals with this topic. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on money. In fact, 15 percent of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of money and possessions – Why? Because it was so important to Jesus? NO. Money is not more important than faith or prayer – Because it is a huge part of our lives.

### **Money is such a big part of our lives**

- Work consumes most of our time
- We have to decide on what we do for entertainment, how we live, how we eat, etc. by how much money we have

Money is in position to control us. It could make us do things that we don't want to do (isn't that slavery?)

Jesus said: **Matthew 6:24** "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

- We can be controlled by either love of money or fear of money.
- I can't buy this because I'll never have enough
- I want more

## **So we said that freedom comes by trading. What do we trade being a slave of money for?**

- We trade it for systematic giving. Systematic giving is the best offense against being a slave to money.
- **Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **The ultimate goal is to absolutely agree with God that He is your provider**
- **Philippians 4:19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
- When this happens, we are no longer a slave to money. When we can give without regards as to whether we will have enough, we are free. Remember – Freedom comes from Christ and knowing the truth.
- **John 8:31-32** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

## **Tithing – Another word for systematic giving**

Why the local church?

- **Galatians 6:6** Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.
- **Malachi 3:10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.
- **Theology moment** – While we are not under the old covenant, we are under the new covenant, which Jesus said He is the fulfillment of the old covenant. What does fulfillment mean, and how do we know what laws are applicable and which ones we don’t need to obey?
- Of course 10% is a law and we are not under the law either. I am talking about freedom, which comes from Spiritual Disciplines.
- We are a family. There are things we wish we could do here that we simply cannot. People we want to reach that we are not because of money.

## Blocks to Tithing

- What if you disagree with the way the church spends your money?
  - Crazy pastors raising money for personal jets
  - Then you are thinking about it wrong. Are you giving to God or to the church?
  - Did God call you to be a part of this church family?
  - When we disagree we must ask ourselves, can we trust God with where He places us & if we are that untrusting of our Spiritual leadership, why does God have me here?
- What if your church does not need the money?
  - This is not the case with Reborn
  - Does that matter (see points above)
- What if I give somewhere else?
  - If you give systematically elsewhere you may get the same benefits of freedom and blessings. But not only is this about a relationship between us and God, it is also a relationship of building the body
  - **Philippians 4:15** Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.
  - The church should be able to act whenever God calls it to.

## Going to church as a discipline

### Listen to the heart of David:

- **Psalm 84:1-2** How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
- **Psalm 84:10** For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

- **Psalm 26:8** LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, And the place where Your glory dwells.
- **Psalm 118:26** Blessed *is* he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.
- **Psalm 122:1** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD.

## Why Church?

### 1. Worship God

- **Psalm 150:1** Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!
- We are meant to worship God together. We are meant to worship God everywhere. But also at church.

### 2. To grow in maturity

- **2 Timothy 2:2** And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
- **Titus 2:1** But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
  - Both Timothy and Titus were being raised up by Paul to become pastors of churches. Both were admonished to teach sound doctrine to bring others up to spiritual maturity.
- **Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

- **This verse lets us know that we are meant to do those things together**

We are actually called to grow in maturity and worship God not only individually, in our own personal time with God, but collectively, as a local gathering of believers.

### **3. To build up and edify each other**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- This verse has more to do with the people, not the staff or pastors.
- While this verse is about being part of a church, it is more about what we are doing when we are there.
- Consider = intentionality
- Stir up to love and good works
- Exhorting one another

### **Tina's Testimony**

**1 Corinthians 14:26** How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

- Again, the people.
- The purpose of the gifts, used in a church, is for edification.
- **Acts 15:32** And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.
- **These gifts are not reserved for the pulpit. Not reserved for microphones. Not reserved for public display.**

**The church:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

### **When we are at church, how can we fulfill this purpose?**

1. We need to develop close relationships with our church family.
2. Encourage each other, especially in spiritual things
  - Spiritual conversations
  - Practice using the gifts – without judgment but with honesty
  - Truly loving each other
  - Avoiding unwholesome words – gossip, backbiting, harsh judgements, etc...
  - Sharing what God is revealing to us and any revelations with each other.
  - Eating together