



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### **The Discipline of a Godly Person**

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To succeed in whatever field, we need discipline. Therefore, a committed servant of God must have discipline. A true committed servant cannot just do whatever he wanted or attend to the Lord's work whenever he felt like it. If he did whatever he wanted to do, he is not disciplined but a rebel.

#### **The 7 Disciplines of a Godly Person**

##### **1. Be Persevering and Fervent in Your Prayer Life**

- Be committed and consistent in your prayer life. Persevere and be fervent in prayers.
- Do not wait to feel like praying before praying. According to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, "Even if you don't like praying, pray."
- If we wait until we are in the mood to pray, we would never be able to pray perseveringly and fervently.
- Everyone struggles in his prayer life. It is good to have a community for it is easier to pray when you are not alone. So, join your community in prayers. There are moments that you have to be alone in prayers, but you should not be alone all the time, for man is not designed to be alone.

##### **2. Strive to Grow in Your Faith**

- Do not be content with the level of faith that you have.
- Do not be like the Pharisee, who is content with his own spirituality and compares himself to others (Lk. 18:9-14).
- Do not compare yourself to others for you will always come out good. Your point of reference must be Jesus. Compare yourself only to Christ, our model.
- Reflection: How closely do I resemble Jesus in my everyday life?
- We must believe that the faith the Lord planted in our hearts is not meant to remain as it is. We must take care of it. It is our obligation to make it bear fruit.

- A person who is disciplined in his faith will not be contented with the level of faith he has. He will strive to grow in his faith, night and day, through reading the Scriptures; praying and listening to God; and, appreciating the testimonies of others.
- Acknowledge that we are gifted; claim that the Lord gave us the gifts; and, move to bear fruit.
- Faith and trust in God of a Godly person should continue to escalate. It should never be stagnant.

##### **3. Our Love for Meditating the Word of God**

- Devour the Word of God (Jer. 15:16).
- Understand that the Word of God helps build our faith and enables us to be persevering and fervent in our prayers.
- The Word of God fills us with hope. Though there are reminders and warnings, His Word (Old and New Testaments) is filled with promises and assurances.
- We are blessed that we have the Word of Life in our laps, for His Word is the food that would strengthen us and give us joy.
- We must meditate on His Word, for we will always receive messages that we need in every situation we are in. It is always relevant and timely, for the Word of God is timeless.
- Constant meditation on the Word of God will increase our knowledge, which we can use to serve, help, and edify the universal church and the community.

##### **4. Obedience to God and Proper Authorities**

- Obedience is one of the marks of a spiritual person.
- Obedience to God and to the proper authorities, who are given to us by God, is important. It is what the Lord always trains us to do.

##### **5. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit**

- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is one of the marks of Charismatics. We do not decide on our

own. We pray, consult, and wait for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- Acknowledge the Holy Spirit in us. Talk to the Holy Spirit and do not grieve Him by sinning against the Lord, ourselves, and others.
- The life marked by the Holy Spirit is what would propel us toward eternal life. When Jesus meets us in the afterlife and sees the presence and mark of the Holy Spirit in us, He will welcome us in His heavenly kingdom.
- We are already marked by the Holy Spirit, but that zeal must be active. A marked but inactive person is different from an active and marked one.
- It is important that we depend on the Holy Spirit, for dependence on Him is dependence on God, because the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.

#### **6. Giving to God and to Others**

- Though we dedicate our donations to God, other people are the ones who benefit from them. When we directly give help to others, the one glorified in it is the Lord, for others are also marked by God and are made in His image and likeness.
- Do not dichotomize the Lord and other people for the test of our faith and love for God is the way we love and care for one another, for God is spirit and we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

#### **7. Forgiving Others**

- We cannot go on praying fervently and perseveringly; leveling up our faith; meditating on the Word of God; obeying God's inspiration; being dependent on the move of the Holy Spirit; and, being generous to God and to other people while harboring grudges and deep-set unforgiveness.
- This is a contradiction and we are a people of the resurrection, not contradiction. We cannot carry the banner of Christ and have an unforgiving heart.
- Do not wait for the pain to cease to exist before we forgive because the pain will stay with us until we forgive. It is only after we forgive that the pain will subside little by little. Slowly, we will be able to talk about the experience and testify to people how God

healed us emotionally; how the power of wanting to be set free has brought forth peace by allowing forgiveness and God's mercy rather than hatred, bitterness, anger, antagonistic attitude, and animosity to reign in our hearts.

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