Basic Disciplines for Believers

Discipline #1: BIBLE SATURATION – I am filling myself with God's Word WEEK #3 – Bible Feeding – "Instruction"

REVIEW – Bible Reading: "Familiarization" – Knowing What the Bible Says

Matt 22:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God."

- 1. Public Reading ("reading in front of people, reading for a group") Week #1
- 2. Personal Reading ("reading each day for ourselves") Week #2

Bible Feeding: "Instruction" – Learning What the Bible Means (Eph 4:11-16)

1. WHO: The People Who Do the Feeding – God Gives and Gifts People to Teach

God Gifts Some People to Teach

- Ex 35:34 And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.
- Rom 12:6-7 ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them:* if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
- Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
- 1 Tim 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

God Appoints Some People to Teach

- 1 Cor 12:28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.
- 1 Tim 2:7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle -- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying -- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
- 2 Tim 1:11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
- 2 Chron 17:7-9 ⁷ Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. ⁸ And with them *he sent* Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah -- the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. ⁹ So they taught in Judah, and *had* the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.

God Limits Who Can Teach

- James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
- 1 Tim 2:12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.
- 1 Tim 1:3-7 ³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. ⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

2. WHY: The Purpose of Feeding – God Uses Teaching to <u>Grow Us</u> to Maturity (to Grow Us Up) To inform us

- 1 Sam 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.
- Ezek 44:23 And they shall teach My people *the difference* between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.
- Ps 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

To transform us

- Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- 2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

To equip us

• Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

To edify us (build us up)

• 1 Cor 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.

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To mature us

- **Eph 4:13-16** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
- Col 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

3. WHY: The Imperative of Feeding – God Commands Believers to Be Taught

Matt 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ... ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

John 21:15(-17) ¹⁵ So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

1 Tim 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise *them* because they are brethren, but rather serve *them* because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. (cf. 1 Tim 4:11 "These things command and teach.")

4. HOW: The Process of Feeding – Learning & Teaching Must Be Done God's Way EXPLANATION – Listening to the Word Being Explained

• **Neh 8:8** So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.

QUESTION – Asking Questions

• Luke 2:46 Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both <u>listening</u> to them and <u>asking</u> them questions.

ILLUSTRATION & EMULATION – Following the Examples of the Teacher

- Luke 6:40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. (cf. Matt 10:24-25)
- **John 13:13-14** You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for *so* I am. If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

PERPETUATION - Passing the Truth on to Others

- Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
- 2 Tim 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. (cf. Heb 5:9-6:3; Col 3:16)

Teaching Must Be CLEAR

• 1 Cor 14:19 yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Teaching Must Be ACCURATE

- Deut 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- Matt 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'
- Acts 18:25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Teaching Must Be COMPLETE

• Acts 20:26-27 Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men.* ²⁷ "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

5. HOW: The Preparation for Feeding

PREPARED HEART

• Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to to to to to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

PROPER STUDY

• 2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, <u>rightly dividing the word of truth</u>.