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# *Prepared to Serve: Disciplined to Serve*

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, January 27, 2019*

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap,  
if we do not give up.” *Galatians 6:9, ESV*

Jesus Did Not Come and Die for Me So  
That I Could Live A Defeated Life

## **The Lack of Discipline Comes from a Lack of God Centeredness**

“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”  
*1 Corinthians 10:31, NLT*

God Did Not Create Me to Be Subject to My Desires  
but To Be Subject to His Lordship

Discipline is: Self-restraint, Courage,  
Perseverance, and Moral Excellence

“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”  
*2 Timothy 1:7, ESV*

“But the fruit of the Spirit is ... self-control” *Galatians 5:22–23, ESV*

If I Can't Control Self... Self Will Control Me

### 1. Discipline Is Necessary for Spiritual Power

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions." *Galatians 5:16–17, NLT*

"... Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. **The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" *2 Peter 1:5–8, NLT*

## 2. Discipline Is A Learned Behavior

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **So I run with purpose in every step.** I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." *1 Corinthians 9:24–27, NLT*

"Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper." *Proverbs 13:4, NLT*

## 3. Discipline Is the Path to Spiritual Growth

### I Can't Trust My Feelings

"Just because something is technically legal doesn't mean that it's spiritually appropriate. If I went around doing whatever I thought I could get by with, I'd be a slave to my whims." *1 Corinthians 6:12, MSG*

"... **Fix your thoughts on what is true**, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. **Think about things** that are excellent and worthy of praise." *Philippians 4:8, NLT*

## Where Do I Start?

## 1. Begin with Small Things

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.”

**Luke 16:10, NLT**

## 2. Put the Needs of Others First

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

**Philippians 2:3–4, NLT**

## 3. Keep Your Eyes on Jesus

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” **Hebrews 12:2, NLT**

## 4. Practice Spiritual Disciplines

Jesus Says That Out of All the Choices I Make in a Day, There Is  
A First Choice I Am Commanded to Make

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” **Matthew 6:33, ESV**