

The Exchanger

Volume 05, Issue 4

April, 2005

THE NEWSLETTER
OF
FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

**The Mission of
FBCWR:**
*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

Discipline
yourself
for the purpose of
godliness

1 Timothy 4:7

INSIDE

That "D-word"	1
What's News at F.B.C.W.R.	2
Calendar	3
Ministry Spotlight	4

That D-word

WARNING: *This article contains information about a sensitive topic—personal discipline. We are aware some people consider the aforementioned d-word to be inappropriate in any setting. Though the topic may cause an aversion in some readers, the spiritual benefits of discipline in our relationship with the Lord can be enormous. So we encourage you to keep an open mind.*

Discipline—there, I said it. I know, yuk. Who wants to talk about the d-word, much less engage in it? In an age of instant access and shortcuts, steroids, DSL—it even sounds like the long route. We are addicted to ease, to produce more leisure time. We may admit discipline is part of a successful person's lifestyle, but surely we hope it's one of our last resorts.



Enjoyable Commitments?

So when you think of your relationship with God, what role does discipline play? Shouldn't pursuing God be fun, easy, joyful—not a chore? The Scriptures show "holy habits" can flow out of a full and grateful heart:

Prayer—Psalm 37:4 - *Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.*

Bible Study—Psalm 1:2 - *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.*

Fellowship—(being with the church) - Psalm 122:1 - *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

When The Thrill Is Gone

But what do we do when our fire for God flickers low, or out? When we don't *feel* like spending time with God? When so many

other experiences seem more fulfilling than going to church or meditating in His Word?

Ahhh, this is when discipline comes in. Discipline is pressing through contrary emotions to pursue a God Who promises to reward us. **If we only pursue Him when we feel like it—when feelings align with effort, then we are making a god of our feelings.**

Job fought through a very human response to hardship. After things had gone way south on him, he exerted some Holy Spirit-driven focus— *"Though He slay me, yet will I love Him."*

"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

"Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?"

Discipline vs. Faith?

In our current message series, "The Seven Secrets of Highly Influential People", I've hammered the fact that God responds to our faith, not our good works. So is a disciplined approach to our walk with Him at odds with this emphasis? Not at all. Consider the description of faith in Hebrews 11:6 - *"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."* The Greek word for "seek" in this passage is used elsewhere in the New Testament for the concept of begging. In another context it means "to make an intense investigation". When we live by faith we connect with Him and sense Him through the fog of negative human emotions.

So here is why the d-word is our 7th Secret of Highly Influential People. Pursuing God is not a dutiful chore—it is the focus of a heart which clings to a God Who is ever-present and generous. Believe that? Then let's get in the habit of constant pursuit of Him, individually and together. *-Joe*