

The Disciplined Christian Life
(by Raymond Cortez, Jr.)

Whatever the spiritual discipline is, we must remember the purpose behind it. The purpose of drawing closer to God and becoming more like Jesus is why we do the basics. The basics in anything will help you to be successful.

Scripture Memory –

Prayer, Solitude, Silence –

Worship –

Evangelism –

Serving –

Fasting –

Journaling –

Accountability –

"The Parable of the Prodigal Son" - Luke 15: 11- 32

²⁸ "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ So he answered and said to *his* father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.'¹

The prodigal son wanted to live a life without any discipline. His brother stayed and worked and did all the commandments. The prodigal son's brother chose to stay and be with the father. The prodigal son went out and tried out all the pleasures of the world. A lot of us feel like the brother. We are disciplined and don't do a lot of the things of the world but we see it as unfair that they get to be seen as popular, or even exalted. But the thing that we forget so many times is the spiritual disciplines help us to speak with the Father, we get to be with the Father. That is a sweet thing. Verse 31 the father says, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours." Oh that we could delight in being with the father. We would see being with the father far better than any pleasures of the world. When will we come to the realization that being with the father is better than any relationship, job, wealth, fame, or thing of this world? For the father has held back nothing from us. All that he has is at our disposal.

¹The New King James Version. 1996, c1982. Thomas Nelson: Nashville