

## DISCIPLINING OURSELVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS

Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1 Timothy 4:7-8 NASB).

- 1 Pray that your church family will be committed to the spiritual disciplines that enhance each Christian's love relationship with Jesus. Pray that time with Him in the Word and Spirit-led worship, prayer, stewardship, and ministry to others will all become a part of your church family's daily walk with Christ.
- 2 Pray that the church in America will realize anew that separating ourselves from the ways of the world and walking in godliness is profitable for both now and eternity.

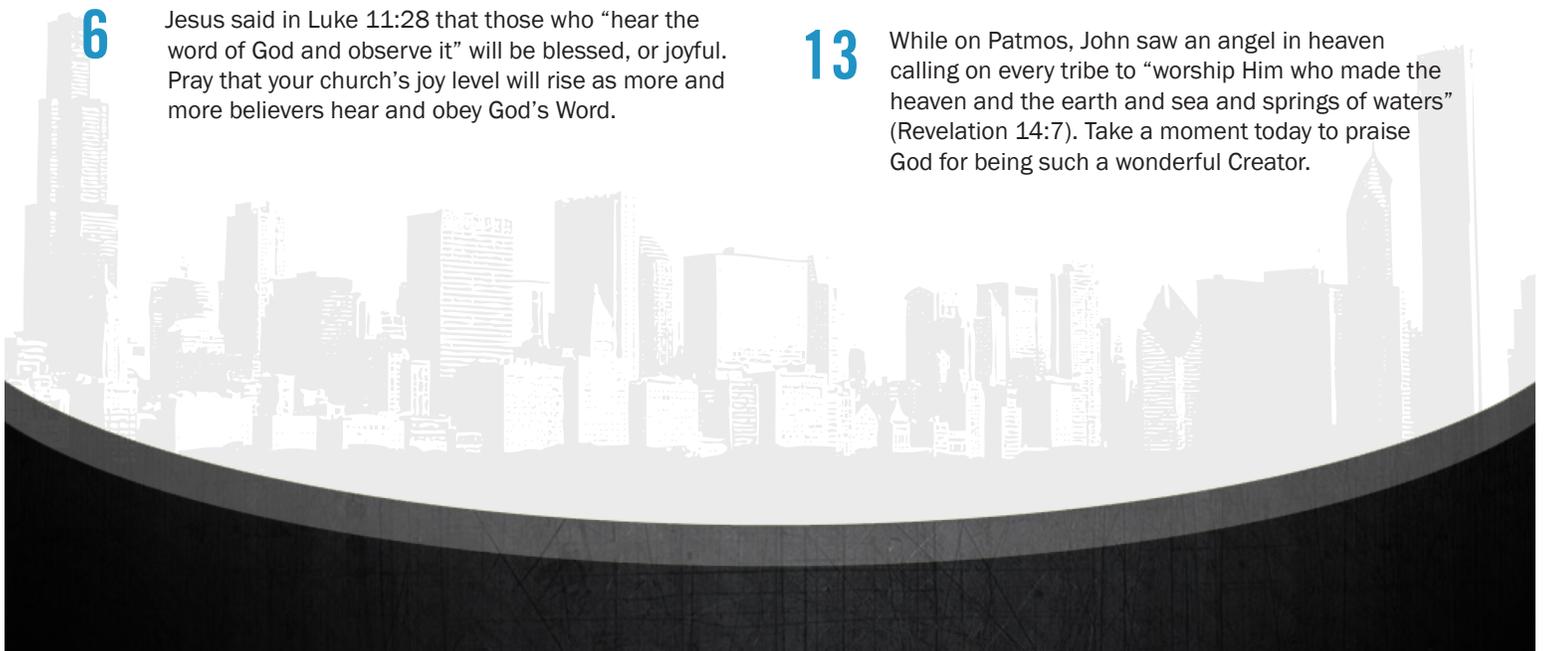
### SPENDING TIME IN THE WORD . . .

- 3 Many professing Christians think they can adequately serve God without spending regular time with Him in His Word. Pray that the members of your church family will embrace the truth that the Word of God is a powerful tool God wants to use in their lives in order to see them "equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- 4 The psalmist saw God's Word as a lamp to his feet and a light to his path (Psalm 119:105). In the growing darkness of our culture, pray that Christians will regularly fill their hearts and minds with the Word of God in order to walk in the light with Jesus.
- 5 When Jesus was in the wilderness and being tempted by the devil, He responded by quoting passages from the book of Deuteronomy (Matthew 4:3-11). Pray that as Christians, we too will be diligent in memorizing God's Word so we can use it when facing temptation.
- 6 Jesus said in Luke 11:28 that those who "hear the word of God and observe it" will be blessed, or joyful. Pray that your church's joy level will rise as more and more believers hear and obey God's Word.

- 7 According to Jesus, those who continue living according to His Word are truly His disciples (John 8:31). Pray that true disciples all across our land will not be hesitant in building their lives around the principles and teachings of the Word of God.
- 8 Pray that as Christians, we will have God's Word abiding in us and will prove ourselves "doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves" (James 1:22).
- 9 It's not uncommon for Christians to fall away from their walk with Jesus if they are persecuted over their use of God's Word (Matthew 13:21). With this type of persecution on the rise in America, pray that Christians will be bold and stand firm in making the Word a part of our daily walk and conversation.

### WORSHIPING IN THE SPIRIT . . .

- 10 Pray that every member of your church family will be a "true worshiper," consistently worshiping the Father in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).
- 11 Pray that your church family members will present their bodies to God as living and holy sacrifices, acceptable to God, which is their spiritual service of worship (Romans 12:1).
- 12 Pray that your Christian friends will worship God in the Spirit and will glorify Jesus Christ by entrusting their lives to Him and putting no confidence in the power of their flesh (Philippians 3:3).
- 13 While on Patmos, John saw an angel in heaven calling on every tribe to "worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters" (Revelation 14:7). Take a moment today to praise God for being such a wonderful Creator.



- 14** Pray that those in your city who have “worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator” will be convicted of their sin and turn to acknowledge that God alone is the Creator who is to be blessed forever (Romans 1:25).
- 15** In Jeremiah’s day, people often “worshiped the works of their own hands” (Jeremiah 1:16). Pray that Christians today will turn away from this temptation and will exalt the One “who is at work in [them] both to will and work for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).
- 16** Let’s pause for a few moments right now and heed the exhortation of the psalmist who wrote, “Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).

#### **CRYING OUT TO GOD IN PRAYER . . .**

- 17** Pray that people in your church will not be “like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray . . . so that they may be seen by men” (Matthew 6:5). Ask God to show any who may have this attitude that there is no eternal reward in that type of prideful praying.
- 18** People often think they are too busy or life is too crowded for them to pray. For those you know who may think this way, ask God to show them that finding a quiet place for prayer was important to Jesus and should be to us as well (Mark 1:35).
- 19** Pray that your friends will “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving” will let their requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6).
- 20** Pray that your church family will learn how to “pray at all times in the Spirit” and will “be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18).
- 21** Pray that your church family will focus even more on learning how to walk in righteousness and pray effectively (James 5:16).
- 22** Pray that those around you will “keep watching and praying” so they won’t enter into temptation (Matthew 26:41).

- 23** Just as Paul asked the Colossian believers to be devoted to prayer and to stay alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2), pray that your church family will do the same.

#### **MINISTERING TO OTHERS . . .**

- 24** Pray that we will trust the Spirit to show us in very practical ways how to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39).
- 25** Pray that your church family will have a positive commitment to the process of stimulating each other to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24).
- 26** Even though we were “called to freedom” from the law, pray that we will not turn our freedom in Christ into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love will serve one another through the power of the Spirit (Galatians 5:13).
- 27** Pray that as we learn to serve others, we will do so “in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter” (Romans 7:6). Pray that our service to Christ will flow out of our love relationship with Him instead of our commitment to just do religious deeds.
- 28** Paul said he worked hard to present every man complete in Christ, striving according to God’s power, which worked mightily within him (Colossians 1:28-29). As we minister to others, pray that we too will work by God’s power instead of our own.
- 29** Please ask God to guide the pastors and teachers of your church who are responsible to Him “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service” (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- 30** Pray that in ministering to others, we will have the attitude of Jesus, who “existed in the form of God” but “emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant” (Philippians 2:5-7).
- 31** Even during days of revival, dealing with Christian brothers or sisters who openly sin (Matthew 18:15-18) and responding to “so-called” brothers who live immorally (1 Corinthians 5:9-13) are not easy steps to take. Pray that your church family will know best how to apply God’s Word when helping others find victory over sin and experience restoration.