

A Parallel Reality: Discipline



Scripture

- **Galatians 5:19-21**
Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- **I Peter 5:8-10**
Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
- **Proverbs 23:12**
Apply your heart to discipline and your ears to words of knowledge.
- **I Cor. 9:27**
But I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
- **Colossians 2:5**
For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.
- **I Tim. 4:7-8**
But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, 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.
- **Matt. 7:14**
For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
- **Luke 17:21**
Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Other Scriptures

- John 14:8
- Matt. 15:11
- Heb. 12:4
- Eph. 4:29
- John 1:10-11

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- Matt. 22:14
- John 7:38
- John 4:14

Main Points

- You don't have to wait 'til heaven to enter into God's kingdom.
- The Kingdom of God is here and now and it's waiting to be discovered.
- You can enter into the Kingdom of God on earth through desire, faith, and intent (Kavanah, the Hebrew word for intent).
- It is important to practice resistance in order to enter into God's parallel reality.
 - Resistance increases our spiritual strength.
- The power to enter into God's parallel reality will be developed through resistance.
 - Is there anything in your life that God is asking you to resist?
 - Is there something in your life that is keeping you from fully entering God's Kingdom?
- Discipline needs to be operating in our lives in order for us to enter God's parallel reality.
- You don't have to wait until heaven to experience God's Kingdom. His Kingdom is here and now.
- We don't measure ourselves by other people or the world. We measure ourselves by God's word.

Discussion Questions

1. What did you find the most encouraging aspect of this teaching overall? What did you find most challenging about it? What are some things God has taught you that you can put to work today?
2. How did you answer the Rabbi's questions at the top of the teaching—are you one of the called ones following the narrow way to life? If you are, what does this teaching help you to do in your living out your faith? If not, and you desire to be one of His chosen, what is stopping you from making your choice for Him and for His ways today? Please let us know if you made such a decision for the Lord today. Visit us with your testimony at DTJJ website or drop us a line today.
3. What is God calling you to resist today? What disciplines need more development in your life today? Jot down an area or two that you can commit to Him and begin to commit these things to prayer.