

BEN WASHINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

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## **BIBLE STUDY**

# **Are you Disciplined to be Spiritual? The Spiritual Discipline of Service & Stewardship – Part 8**

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# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## BIBLE STUDY SERIES SCHEDULE

**Week #1 – February 4, 2026**

“The Purpose of Spiritual Disciplines”

**Week #2 – February 11, 2026**

“The Discipline of Bible Intake”

**Week #3 – February 18, 2026**

“The Discipline of Bible Study & Meditation”

**Week #4 – February 25, 2026**

“The Discipline of Prayer”

**Week #5 – March 4, 2026**

“The Discipline of Fasting”

**Week #6 – March 11, 2026**

“The Discipline of Worship”

**Week #7 – March 18, 2026**

“The Discipline of Fellowship & Accountability”

**Week #8 – March 25, 2026**

“The Discipline of Service & Stewardship”

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

The purpose of **spiritual disciplines** is to intentionally cultivate spiritual growth, transform one's inner self, and deepen a relationship with God (or a higher power) by developing habits like prayer, scripture study, and fasting. They are not the goal itself but rather spiritual "exercises" or training tools, much like athletic training, that build spiritual strength, foster reliance on God, and help align one's life with divine will, leading to greater likeness to Christ and spiritual maturity.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Spiritual Discipline of Service & Stewardship

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## **Understanding Service & Stewardship**

The spiritual disciplines of service and stewardship involve intentionally managing God-given resources—time, talents, and treasure—and serving others without expecting reward, as acts of worship and obedience. These practices foster humility, combat selfishness, and reflect responsible care for creation.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Theme Scripture

### 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

**“Each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## What is Service?

**Definition:** Service is the intentional act of meeting needs for the glory of God and the good of others.

- **Rooted in humility and love**
  - **Modeled by Christ**
- **Empowered by the Spirit**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Mark 10:45** – Jesus came to serve, not be served.
  - **Galatians 5:13** – Serve one another in love.
- **John 13:12–15** – Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## What is Stewardship?

**Definition:** Stewardship is the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us.

- Time
- Talents
- Treasure
- Truth (the Gospel)

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Key Scriptures

- **Psalm 24:1** – Everything belongs to God.
- **Luke 16:10** – Faithful in little, faithful in much.
- **1 Corinthians 4:2** – Stewards must be found faithful.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Biblical Foundation of Service

### **Jesus as the Ultimate Servant.**

Philippians 2:5–8 – Christ emptied Himself.

Matthew 20:26–28 – Greatness is serving.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Service is not **optional**; it is central to Christian identity.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## **Service as Worship**

**Romans 12:1** – Offer your bodies as living sacrifices.

**Hebrews 13:16** – Doing good pleases God.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**Service is not separate from worship—it is worship.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Biblical Foundation of Stewardship

### God Owns Everything

Psalm 24:1

Haggai 2:8

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**We are managers, not owners.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## **Accountability to God**

**Matthew 25:14–30** (Parable of the Talents)

**Romans 14:12** – Each will give an account

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**Stewardship includes responsibility and future accountability.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Areas of Stewardship

### Stewardship of Time

**Ephesians 5:15–16** – Redeem the time

**Psalms 90:12** – Number our days

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**How are you currently investing your time?**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## **Stewardship of Gifts & Talents**

Romans 12:6–8

Corinthians 12:4–7

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**Your spiritual gifts are meant for service, not self-promotion.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Stewardship of Finances

Malachi 3:10

2 Corinthians 9:6–8

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

6 But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may abound to every good work:

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**Giving reflects trust in God's provision.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## **Stewardship of the Gospel**

Matthew 28:19–20

2 Corinthians 5:18–20

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**We are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Barriers to Service & Stewardship

- **Self-centeredness (Philippians 2:3–4)**
- **Fear or insecurity (Exodus 4:10–12)**
  - **Laziness (Proverbs 18:9)**
- **Misplaced priorities (Matthew 6:33)**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Heart of a Servant & Steward

**Humility**

Micah 6:8

James 4:10

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Heart of a Servant & Steward

### Faithfulness

Luke 12:42–44

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Heart of a Servant & Steward

### Willingness

Isaiah 6:8 – “Here am I, send me”

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## The Heart of a Servant & Steward

### Love

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Key Takeaway

**Service is what we do; stewardship is how we manage what God has given us. Both reflect our faithfulness to God and our love for others.**

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Personal Reflection Questions

1. What has God entrusted to me that I may be underutilizing?
2. Am I serving out of love or obligation?
3. Where is God calling me to serve right now?
4. How faithful am I with my time, talents, and resources?

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

**Spiritual formation** is the lifelong process by which a person is shaped into the character and likeness of Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and intentional practices.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

## Core Definition:

At its essence

Spiritual formation = inner transformation that produces outward Christlike living.

It is not behavior **modification**—it is **heart transformation**.

# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Questions?