Discipline in Loving God First



Explore how loving God first shapes spiritual discipline through heart, actions, and perseverance for a deeper, faithful walk with Him.





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Introduction

Welcome to this 5-day journey on *Discipline in Loving God First*. In a world overflowing with distractions and competing priorities, the call to love God above all else stands firm and challenging. Yet, it is this very command that lays the foundation for all spiritual discipline.

Discipline often brings to mind rigidity or struggle, but when it flows from a heart devoted to God, it becomes an expression of love, faith, and obedience. Loving God first invites us to reorder our lives, aligning every thought, choice, and action with His purpose. It means prioritizing time with Him, nurturing our faith through Scripture and prayer, and making God our ultimate delight.

Throughout this study, we will explore how true discipline is not merely about rules or effort but about a transformative relationship that strengthens our desire to seek God continually. We will dive into Scripture to uncover practical ways to cultivate loving discipline in our hearts—balancing commitment with grace, persistence with surrender.

Whether you are new to faith or seeking renewed passion, these reflections and devotions aim to inspire and equip you to put God first in every aspect of your life. May this time deepen your love for Him and empower you to live disciplined in love, bearing fruit that honors His name. Let's embark together on this journey to love God with disciplined hearts.

















Day 1: V Love as the Root of Discipline

Your Verse

Matthew 22:37 - 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 13:1 'If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.'
- John 14:15 'If you love me, keep my commands.'







Day 1: W Love as the Root of Discipline

Devotional: Discipline Flows from True Love for God

Discipline begins in love. Jesus clearly states that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind. This love is the soil from which all spiritual discipline grows. Without genuine love, discipline becomes empty routine or burdensome duty.

When we love God, discipline becomes a joyful response rather than a mere obligation. It means choosing daily to put God first, not because we have to, but because we want to. This love motivates us to obey His commands, to seek Him diligently, and to remain faithful even when it's challenging.

Reflect on your own practice of discipline: Is it driven by love for God or by obligation? Cultivating a heart that loves God deeply transforms discipline into an act of worship, shaping every decision and cultivating lasting spiritual growth.







Day 1: We Love as the Root of Discipline

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does your love for God influence your daily disciplines?
2.	Can you identify times when discipline felt like a duty rather than an act of love?
3.	What steps can you take to nurture a deeper love for God that fuels your discipline?







Day 1: We Love as the Root of Discipline

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time when loving God made discipline easier for you.
2.	Describe what loving God with your whole heart means in your daily life.
	List practical ways to express your love for God through spiritual discipline.







Day 1: W Love as the Root of Discipline

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to root all my discipline in genuine love for You. Teach my heart to seek You not out of duty but out of deep affection and devotion. May loving You be the foundation of every habit, thought, and choice I make. Thank You for Your patience as I grow in this love and discipline. Strengthen me to keep my eyes on You above all else. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*







Day 2: Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine









Day 2: 🙇 Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine

Your Verse

Psalm 37:4 - 'Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 6:33 'But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'
- Romans 12:1 'Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.'







Day 2: 🕰 Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine

Devotional: Making Time for God Is Loving Discipline

Discipline in loving God first requires intentional daily choices. Our lives are filled with distractions and demands, but Scripture calls us to *seek God first*. This means making time for Him not as an afterthought but as the priority.

God delights when we delight in Him. When we start our days with prayer, Scripture, and worship, we center our hearts and align our desires with His will. This daily discipline molds our character, shapes our decisions, and refreshes our souls.

Discipline looks like a deliberate prioritization—setting aside time for God, resisting worldly distractions, and offering ourselves wholly to Him. It's a lifestyle choice that reflects loving God with all that we are and have. Consider your current routine. How can you rearrange your day to lovingly honor God first?







Day 2: 🕰 Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine

Reflect and Apply

1.	What currently competes with God for your time and attention?
2.	How does prioritizing God impact your desires and decisions?
3.	What practical steps can you take to put God first in your daily routine?







Day 2: 🕰 Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine

Journaling Prompts

1.	Record how you feel after setting aside intentional time with God.
	Jot down activities you can reduce or remove to spend more time with God.
3.	Write a prayer asking God to help you seek Him first every day.







Day 2: 🙇 Prioritizing God in Our Daily Routine

Prayer for Today

Lord, teach me to prioritize You above all else. Help me to delight in Your presence daily and to seek Your kingdom first. Guide my schedule, my heart, and my thoughts so that I live each day putting You first. May this discipline bring me closer to You and transform my desires. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*

















Your Verse

Hebrews 12:1-2 - 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.'

Supporting Scriptures

- James 1:12 'Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.'
- Galatians 6:9 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'







Day 3: 💪 Strength in Perseverance Through Love

Devotional: Love Sustains Faithful Perseverance

Loving God first helps us endure challenges with discipline and hope.

Spiritual discipline often involves perseverance through times of difficulty, distraction, or discouragement. When our motivation is love for God, we find renewed strength to keep pressing forward.

Hebrews reminds us to fix our eyes on Jesus—the source and ultimate example of faithful endurance. Love sustains and empowers us to run the race with purpose, even when obstacles arise.

Perseverance is not passive but a loving commitment to stay true to God's path. It requires trusting His promises and expecting growth despite hardship. Today, reflect on the challenges you face in maintaining discipline and ask God to help your love for Him be your anchor and motivation to persevere.







Day 3: 6 Strength in Perseverance Through Love

Reflect and Apply

1.	What challenges test your spiritual discipline most?
2.	How does focusing on Jesus strengthen your perseverance?
	In what ways can love renew your commitment when discipline feels hard?







Day 3: 6 Strength in Perseverance Through Love

Journaling Prompts

	Write about a time you persevered in discipline because of your love for God.
2.	List Scriptures or truths that encourage you to keep going.
3.	Reflect on what Jesus' example of perseverance means to your daily walk.







Day 3: 6 Strength in Perseverance Through Love

Prayer for Today

Father God, when I feel weary, remind me to fix my eyes on Jesus, the source of my faith. Strengthen my love for You that it would fuel my perseverance in spiritual discipline. Help me to trust Your promises and keep running the race without giving up. May my discipline be an act of love that honors You. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.















Your Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6 - 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 8:28 'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.'
- Psalm 119:105 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.'







Devotional: Surrendering to God's Will Is Loving Discipline

Discipline in loving God includes surrendering our own plans to His divine purpose. True love for God compels us to trust His wisdom, even when it differs from our own understanding or desires.

Proverbs teaches us to lean not on our own insights but to submit every way to Him. This submission is an act of loving discipline—it shapes our decisions, informs our behaviors, and guides our path. God's Word becomes our lamp, directing each step with clarity and assurance.

Aligning our will means daily choosing God's purposes over our preferences and believing that He works all things together for good. It is a discipline born from love and trust, forging a closer relationship as we yield ourselves to His leading.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How often do you seek God's guidance before making decisions?
2.	Where do you struggle most to submit your will to God?
3.	What helps you trust God's plans even when they differ from your own?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Journal about a time you experienced God's guidance after submission.
2.	Write down areas of your life where surrendering to God is difficult.
3.	Reflect and list ways you can regularly align your will with God's purposes.







Prayer for Today















Your Verse

Philippians 2:12-13 - 'Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.'

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Peter 3:18 'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'
- Ephesians 2:8-9 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.'







Devotional: Grace Empowers Loving Discipline Growth

Loving God first draws us into a lifelong journey of growing discipline, deeply rooted in His grace. Philippians reminds us that while we actively work out our salvation, it is God who empowers our will and actions. Discipline is not about self-effort alone but cooperation with God's transforming power.

Grace sustains us, especially when we fall or falter in our discipline. It teaches us humility and dependence, allowing our love for God and discipline to grow steadily. This growth is a divine partnership where God cultivates fruitfulness in us.

Today, reflect on how grace has supported your spiritual discipline. Celebrate progress, embrace areas needing growth, and rest in the assurance that God is faithful to complete His work in you.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How has God's grace helped you maintain spiritual discipline?
2.	In what ways do you depend on God's power rather than your strength?
3.	How can you cultivate patience with yourself as you grow in discipline?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a thank-you note to God for His grace in your spiritual journey.
2.	Identify areas where you can invite God's help to strengthen your discipline.
3.	Reflect on your progress and set loving, grace-filled goals for growth.







Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, thank You for working in me to will and to act according to Your purpose. Help me to grow in discipline through Your strength and grace. When I stumble, remind me of Your forgiveness and patience. May my love for You deepen as I learn to depend fully on Your power. Guide me to continue this journey joyfully and faithfully. In Jesus' name, *Amen.*







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