



Don't Stay As You Are

2 Peter 1:8 (NIV) For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (ESV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

1. Followers of Christ must _____ to obtain their _____.

Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press onto make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

2. Followers of Christ must be _____ and exercise _____.

Proverb 12:1 (ESV) Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Spiritual Disciplines:

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____ and _____
 - _____
- Romans 12: 12 (ESV)** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 (ESV)** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
- Isaiah 58:6-7 (ESV)** Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
- Acts 11:29-30 (ESV)** So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

3. Followers of Christ must _____ what they learned from Scriptures.

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV) Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.

 *This message, in audio or video, will be available at www.connect2ccc.org

LifeGroup Study

Stepping In: Getting things started!

1. What's something that has created real growth in you as a person? (Could be a friend, event, circumstance, stressful situation, etc.)
2. What's the importance of accepting people as they are...but not allowing them to stay like that forever?

Building Up: What is God Saying?

1. Read **1 Cor. 9:24-27**
2. Pick the one verse that speaks most clearly to you today and write it out below: (share with the group which verse you chose.)
3. (**1 Cor. 9:24-27**) What specifically challenges you in these verses to continue to stretch and grow as a follower of Christ?

4. (**Heb. 12:1-3**) BE SPECIFIC...pick something that either hinders or entangles you to the point of slowing you down as a follower of Christ. Share with the group something you can do to make a positive change.

5. (**2 Peter 1:5-9**) Pick the one thing out of this list that you'd like to see God develop in your life further. Share that with the group and tell how you think you could grow in that NOW.

Living Out – How do I obey?

1. One of the most challenging things we can do to help jump-start our spiritual growth is telling our friends about Jesus. This drives us back to our knees in prayer and back to God's Word so we have something to say.

Who do you think you could talk to about Jesus this next week?

2. If you haven't done this yet...plan a party night!