

Basic Training!

FAST Basic Training #4 - Down to Business

Memo:

Welcome to study four. We have covered some critical topics so far—but there is much still ahead. So keep pressing forward!



As you do, however, make a determined effort to continue working on areas we have already studied. It will be tempting to let up on your efforts to establish a regular time for Bible study and use of your prayer journal. Don't let it happen! Discipleship is progressive. Each step builds on the ones before. So strive to be faithful in everything you have studied so far.

In this study, we will be looking at another challenging area of discipleship—an area that is perhaps the most commonly neglected of all: we will be talking, of course, about *obedience*. About being "down to business" in carrying out what Christ asks of us. The suggestions ahead may seem simple—but they can radically impact your life. So put some serious effort into implementing them. You may never be the same again...

**The Editor,
Hid in Christ**

Bible Secrets to Living for Christ

Copyright © 2019, FAST. Please do not photocopy. For info: WWW.FAST.ST

Objectives Week 4

Name: _____ Initialed by: _____

Date: _____

- ☐ Complete the Bible Search entitled **Down to Business**. Make sure you are spending quality time on these lessons and not just rushing through them at the last minute.
- ☐ This week you will have two new verses to memorize: **Proverbs 13:4** and **II Corinthians 8:11**. Are you caught up on all your verses to date? Continue reviewing them daily.
- ☐ Read the **Practical Suggestions** for managing your time and begin working at building these principles into your life. Every aspect of discipleship hinges on our use of time. Ask God to help you be more faithful in redeeming the time!
- ☐ Work this week on learning the **Bow of Promise** illustration. Continue reviewing all the illustrations we have discussed so far. Do you have a copy of each in your verse pack?
- ☐ Since this lesson focuses on obedience, take some time to evaluate your *faithfulness* so far. How consistent has your Morning Watch been? Have you started your personal prayer journal yet—and begun using it? If you are struggling in some area, ask God to show you what it will take to get real victory.

*The road to excellence is for all
Who will not trade integrity for excuses*

Down to Business

Bible Search 4

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. Matthew 10:24-25

1. What did Jesus teach about obedience in each of the following verses from the Sermon on the Mount?

Matthew 5:19

Matthew 6:24

Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 7:21

2. Why do you think Jesus spent so much time talking about obedience?

Summarize Jesus's conception of the importance of obedience:

3. In the following verses, what did Jesus say the cost of obedience might be?

Luke 14:26

Luke 14:33

What is the point of the illustrations Jesus used in Luke 14:28-32?

4. How did Jesus repeatedly deal with those who gave excuses for not following him immediately? Luke 9:57-62

Compare the men above with the men in Mark 1:16-20 and Luke 5:27-28.

Which kind of disciple would you classify yourself?

5. How does the Bible say we should "hearken" to the voice of the Lord and why? Deuteronomy 28:1-2

What is one reason many Christians do not grow spiritually? Proverbs 13:4

How diligently did Paul encourage believers to implement what he had taught them? I Thessalonians 4:1

6. What is the reward for faithfulness?

I Timothy 1:12

Matthew 25:21,23

7. How willing are you to commit right now to developing a lifestyle of greater personal obedience to Jesus Christ? Why not write out your answer as a brief prayer to God?

Redeeming the Time Practical Suggestions

Being "down to business" in the Christian life is all about one's use of time. In fact, discipleship is *time*—whether you are seeking the Lord through prayer, or memorizing a verse. Ministry, too, is *time* invested in other people's lives. But time has a way of slipping through our fingers—and the Christian must learn to snatch it back. Want to be more consistent in your discipleship? More fruitful in ministry? Learn to harness your time. Get down to business! The paragraphs ahead will help.

Time Management

While many systems exist for managing your time, all involve planning. To make the best use of your time, you too, must plan. Begin by purchasing a small weekly planner. Then, at the beginning of each day, as a part of your Morning Watch—while your mind is still in a spirit of prayer, and fresh from meditation on the Word—take a few moments for planning. What projects would you like to accomplish that day? that week? Review your calendar, and/or schedules for upcoming activities and events. Are there things you should be preparing for now? What about the various people in your life—is there something important you should do for some friend or family member? Are there goals you have been working toward? Break big projects into smaller tasks and take steps every day. Perhaps the Lord spoke to you while in prayer, or Bible study—impressing you to carry out some special task? As you think through these things, ask God for wisdom to know *His* agenda for your day.

Next, begin entering items into your planner. Schedule them in as soon as there are openings—giving precedence to items that are especially important or urgent. As you examine your schedule, you may feel impressed to mark off some items, as unimportant, or out of harmony with God's will for your life right now. Others you may feel impressed to postpone until

another day. But some will stand out as tasks God wants you to tackle immediately. Put them in your planner. Now examine your list. Is it too short or too long? What is the best time and way to accomplish each item? Plan your day—then commit your plans to God.

As you go through the day, consult your planner frequently. Make an effort to try and check off each item at the time intended. Push yourself to squeeze a little more into each 24 hour period. Items not checked off will be back to face you tomorrow. Time management, however, is not about busyness—it is about getting the *right* things done. Some days you may be able to accomplish every item, others you may not. What is essential is that you commit your plan to God, and give it your best. God will honor your efforts. By the time using your planner has become habitual—you will find yourself getting far more done than you would have thought possible. To win the war on time, you must have a plan! Here's a few other useful tips:

- Don't trust your memory—use your planner.
- Develop a daily schedule—and stick to it.
- Recognize the sin of procrastination—and conquer it.
- Be a finisher—avoid new tasks until old ones are done.
- Learn to say no—so you can say yes to God.

Scripture Memory Tip: Memorizing verses that focus on diligence and related topics, allows the Holy Spirit to flash those verses into our mind whenever we are not using our time wisely. Eventually, God's Word can transform our whole sense of the value of time.

The Importance of Commitment

As with every area of discipleship, obedience requires a morning by morning commitment—to discerning God's plan for your day, and acting on it. Obedience is a *mindset* that must be cultivated. Ultimately, it boils down to surrender at the moment of choice. Will you do what God has asked, or not? The choice is yours.