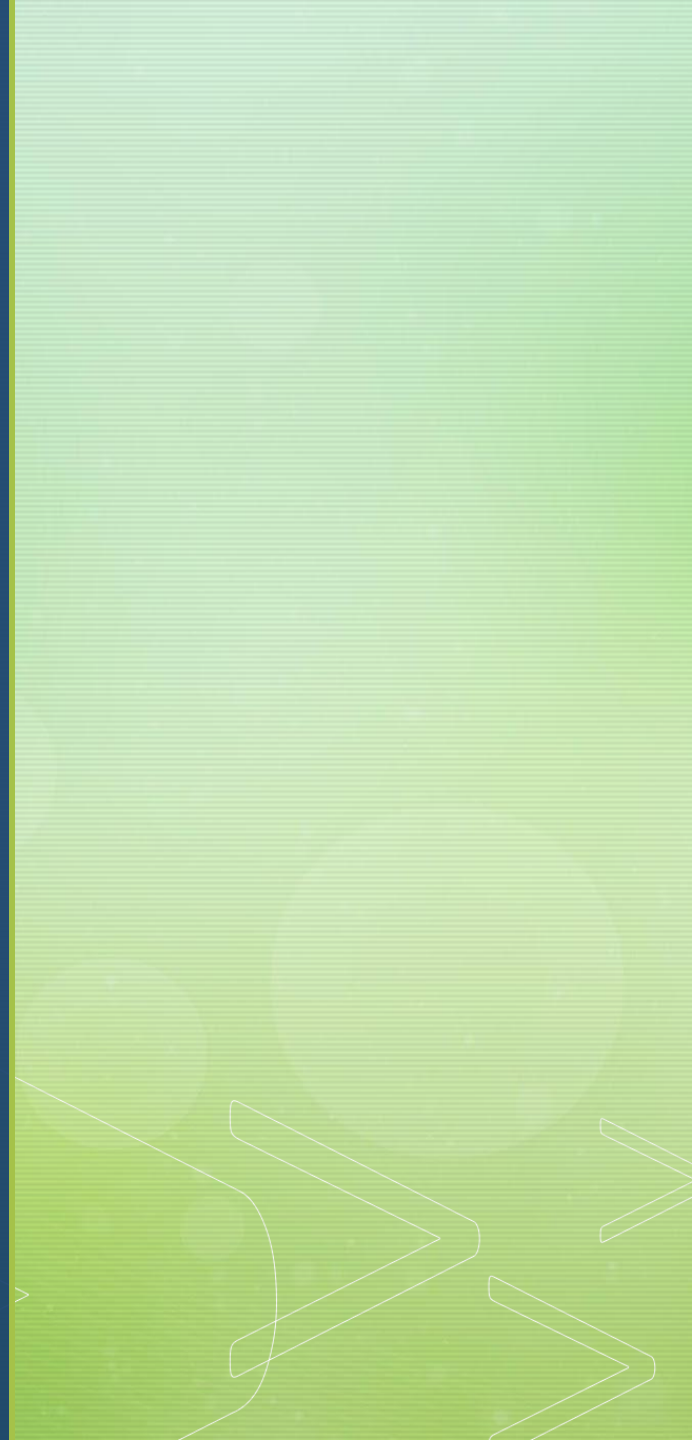


The Strategic Discipleship Workbook

Session Four: Intentionality



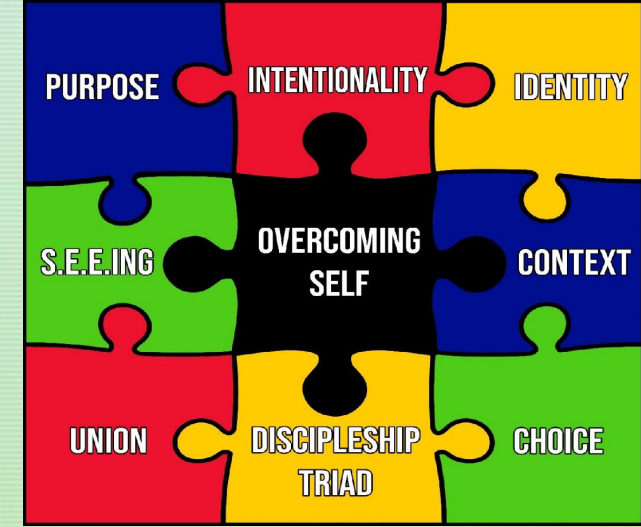
Pre-Course “Test”

■ Please record your answer the following:

1. What is Discipleship? _____

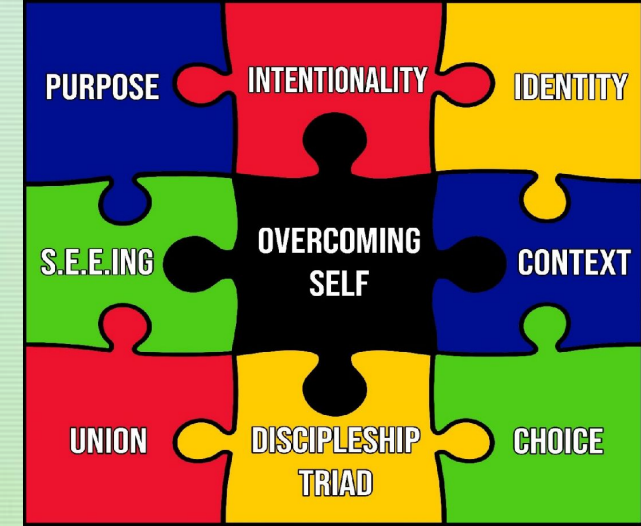
2. What constitutes “Strategic” Discipleship? _____

3. What are the components of Strategic Discipleship? _____



Intentionality Components

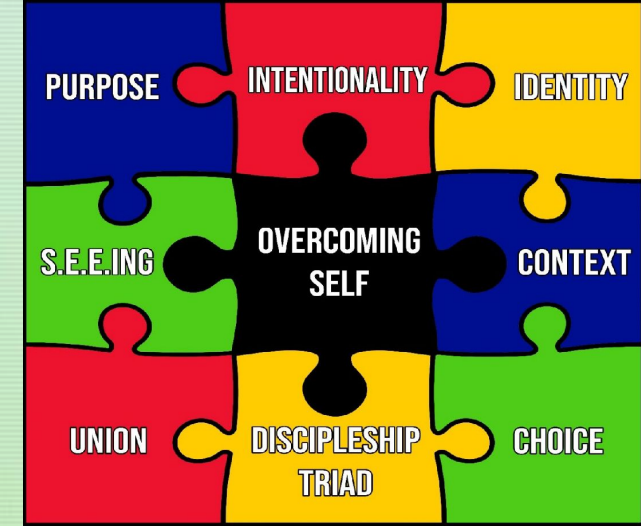
- Intentionality = Diligence + Faithfulness + Focus
- Most important responsibility in life is faithfully transacting with the resources the Master has entrusted us (Matthew 25:14-30).
- Pg. 36: Synonyms for “circumspectly.”
- Intentionality in Scripture: **Ephesians 5:15-17**, “¹⁵See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶*redeeming the time*, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but *understand what the will of the Lord is*.”
- “Purpose” tells us what we redeem our time for, and “Intentionality” tells us how we do it.
- Opposite of Intentionality: 1) Fecklessness = Ineffective, incompetent, futile; 2) Having no sense of responsibility, indifferent, lazy.
- Comment On This: “The path of least resistance always runs through the landscape of comfort and convenience.”
- Is this true? “In the context of so much anticipation, thoughtful planning, and focused attention, it is clear that we give appropriate attention to that which we *truly* value.”
- Read pg. 37, para 3 together. How does lack of planning support SAG?



Frustration-to-Focus Cycle

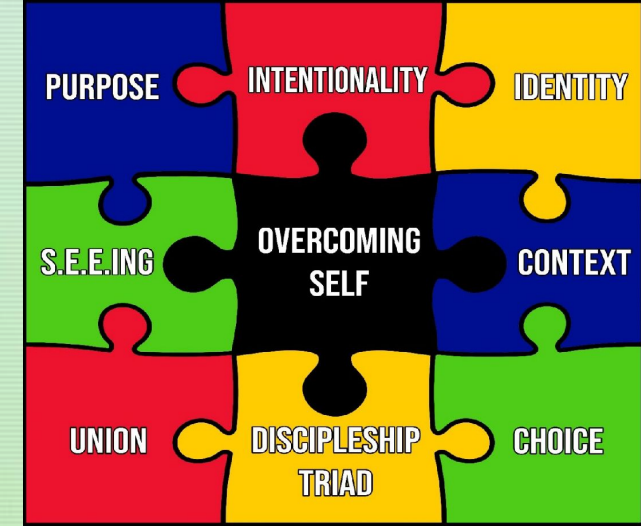
- God gives you frustration to inspire dreaming. *Frustration without a dream is **vanity**;*
- He gives you a dream to inspire a vision. *A dream without a vision is **fantasy**;*
- He gives vision to inspire you to set goals. *A vision without a goal is **purposeless**;*
- He provides a goal to inspire you to make a plan. *A goal without a plan is **wishful thinking**;*
- God gives you a plan to give you focus. *A plan without focus is **unworkable**.*
- He gives you focus see your mission clearly and stay on task. *Focus without a mission is **myopia**.*

*Frustration without forward movement results in **exasperation!***



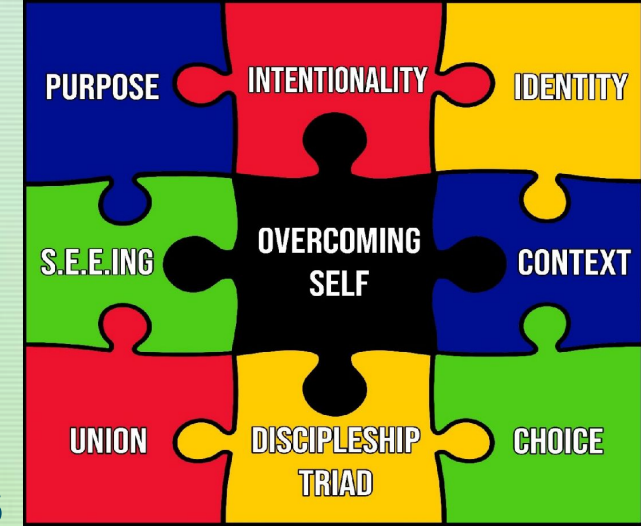
Day One: The Frustration-to-Focus Cycle (FtFC)

- Read **2 Peter 1:5-7** and notice the step-by-step blueprint for growth that we will call the “Add-To Principle” (ATP). Notice that Peter does not assume that all growth occurs all at once, but rather in a staged process.
- Frustration and discontent are rampant in today’s world. Why?
- Comment on This: “when frustration ceases to be motivating and liberating it becomes destructive and enslaving.”
- Read Philippians 2:11-12. What is the “operative phrase” in this text? (“...the most important phrase in a sentence, which explains the truth of a situation.”)
- How do frustration and contentment cooperate? Explain how “They are *designed* to drive us from complacency and goad us into action. To the trained consciousness, they bridge the gap between our “as is” and “could be” perception.”



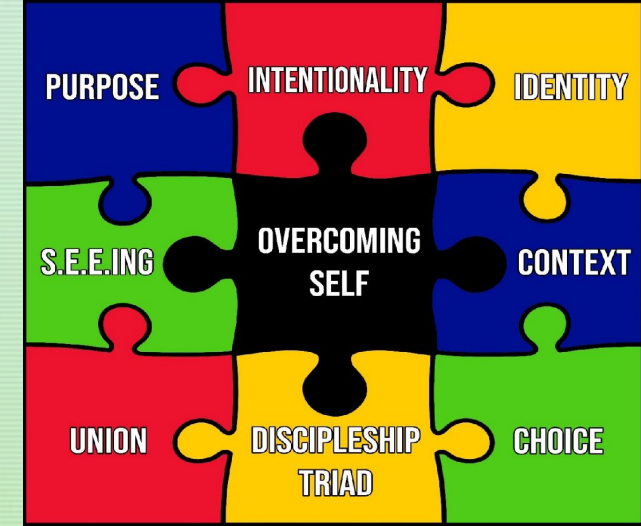
Day 2: What is Intentionality?

- Functional definition: “On Purpose, with Purpose.”
- Three indispensable components: 1) Diligence, 2) Faithfulness, and, 3) Focus
- Diligence = “Active, engaged persistence,” and is a man’s “precious possession” (Proverbs 12:27)
- Faithfulness = Persistent, unrelenting righteousness. It is putting one foot in front of the other, then doing it over and over again regardless of circumstances.
- Focus = The ability/skill to narrow your attention to a concentrated point; rejecting distraction, it is painstaking attention on the task before us.
- The difference between faithful and stubborn is that faithfulness requires a vision, which is then translated into a mission. In other words, faithfulness requires specified direction or it is just wandering.
- Comment: “Focus, without a life-purpose objective, is just “staring into space.”
- Question: What is the function of planning within the concept of Intentionality?



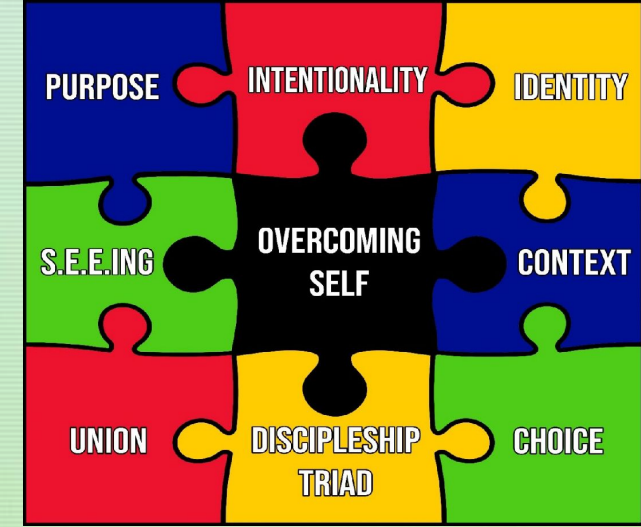
Day 3: The Intentionality Progression

- To know God's Ways is to know how He works; and, to know how He works is to know what He is doing and projecting what He is likely to do next.
- Spiritual battle is military-style conflict therefore it is appropriate to incorporate the language of Command and Control and Planning: Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Tactics and Action Plans.
- Movement, in the form of spiritual growth, is most often from *general* to *specific*; from *spirit* to *soul*, then to *flesh*; from *internal* to *external*.
- Remember the way faith works: **First** we embrace, **then** we understand.
- Mindfulness: (**Psalm 27:4**) Awareness of your environment; dwelling, beholding, inquiring, and consequently being changed in the process; remembering who we are and where we are destined to be and letting that knowledge shape our actions, attitudes, and world views; choosing your internal thought environment, not letting it be chosen for you by the world, by circumstances, by culture, or by religious expectations.



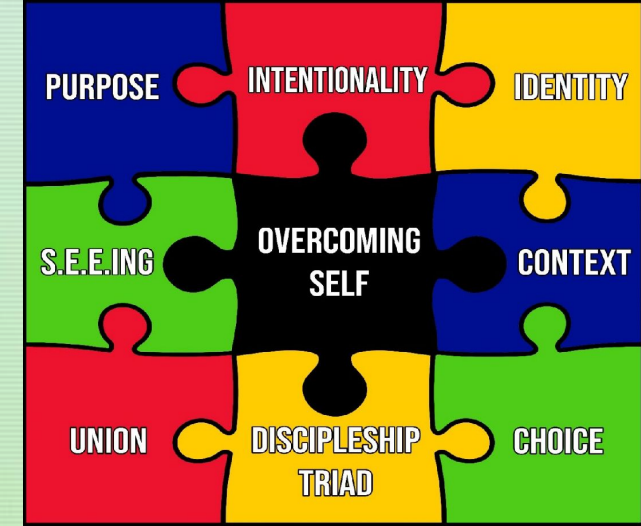
Day 4: He Has Put Everything Into Your Hands

- “Free Will” versus “Limited Sovereignty”
- **Ephesians 4:10**, “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” The idea is a “menu” of good works, not prescriptive works.
- **John 13:3-5**: Three factors—Heritage, Future, and Commission—empower humility & establish bedrock personal security.
 1. *We know we have come from God (heritage)*: Our home base and point of origin. We know we are Kingdom-dwellers, in this world but not of it. Our citizenship is in Heaven, and we have the seal of the Holy Spirit to prove it.
 2. *We know we are returning to God (future)*: Our future is our absolute security, enabling us to engage in the risks associated with being vulnerable, compassionate, and loving.
 3. *God has put all things into our hands (commission)*: Papa has given us the commission to engage in the battle. With it come allotted resources, a *genius* Coach, and brilliant curriculum for training His values, ways, & character. He then turns us loose within His safety net of identity and security and says, in effect, “Let’s see what you’ve got. Let’s see what you can make of the events and circumstances of life to be transformed into a mature son.”
- **Philippians 2:12**, “[W]ork out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Why would Paul tell us to “Work out” if God did everything for us?



Day 5: Focus="This One Thing I Do"

- Read Philippians 3:7-14—Paul’s razor-sharp focus.
- As we grow up He progresses to more subtle, more advanced lessons that require our full attentiveness. The “schoolmaster” role of the Law gives way to faith response (**Galatians 3:24-25**).
- What does this mean? “Sitting cross-legged on the top of a mountain or in a worship service and waiting for some force to come upon and change you will not yield the desired results *because that is not how He designed the process to work*.”
- Focus is sweat-breaking work! Just ask Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane!
- Focus is concentrating on practical actions that answer the question, “What do I do *today, this moment*, to be His disciple?”
- Focus, without an objective and life focus, is just staring off into space.
- When we focus on *one thing*, chances are we will get really good at that one thing.
- Would anyone like to share their DF Question #4 answer?



Next Week: Identity

