



WELCOME TO THE

*table*



# FOR TIME

*Practices of Grace from the Giver of Grace*



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*30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

*Matthew 6:25-33*



# *Recap on Spiritual Disciplines:*

*“The disciplines are activities of mind and body purposefully undertaken, to bring our personality, and total being into effective cooperation with the divine order. They enable us more and more to live in a power that is, strictly speaking, beyond us, deriving from the spiritual realm itself.”*

**-Dallas Willard**

In other words, spiritual disciplines are a **MEANS** to an **END**.

- Viewing disciplines as an end in and of themselves leads to legalism (bondage/death).
- Viewing disciplines as a means to an end in leads to growth and fruit bearing (freedom/life).



# *Misconceptions with Simplicity*

1. Simplicity is just simply organizing your belongings.

- Purpose of organization is to make room for more things. This is not the aim of simplicity.

2. Simplicity is not a new age trend.

- Prevalent in some form in every era & religion



# *What is Simplicity?*

- *“An inward reality of single-hearted focus upon God and His kingdom, which results in an outward lifestyle of modesty, unpretentiousness and which disciplines our hunger for status, glamour, and luxury.”*

-Richard Foster

- The discipline of reorienting our heart by prioritizing the things that withhold us from being faithfully present. This is practiced through limiting the number of possessions, reordering our time, money, and social circles to live joyfully present with Jesus.

- *“By intentionally living with less, we make space for more what we most value before God.”*

-John Mark Comer



# *Biblical Backgrounds in the OT:*

**“Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.” -Ps. 62:10**

**“You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.” -Ex. 20:17**

**“Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.” -Pro. 11:28**





# *Biblical Backgrounds in the NT:*

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” -Mt. 6:9-21

“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. -Mt. 6:24

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” -Mt. 19:24



# *Biblical Backgrounds in the NT:*

**“but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.” -Mk. 4:19**

**Elder: “not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.” -1 Tim. 3:3**

**Deacon/Deaconess: “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.” -1 Tim. 3:8**

**“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.” -1 Tim. 6:9**

**“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” -Heb. 13:5**



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## Note:

- Asceticism and simplicity are not the same. Asceticism rejects possessions where simplicity puts them in proper perspective.

## 3 Lessons of Simplicity:

1. Simplicity teaches us to view everything we have as a gift from God.
2. Simplicity teaches us to trust in the reality that God is able to protect everything He gives.
3. Simplicity teaches us to live with open hands reflecting the gracious nature of the Grace Giver.

*“If our goods are not available to the community when it is clearly right and good, then they are stolen goods. The reason we find such an idea so difficult is our fear of the future. We cling to possessions rather than sharing them because we are anxious about tomorrow.”*

-Richard Foster



# *Practical Suggestions for Practicing*

1. Buy things for their usefulness rather than their status.
2. Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you.
3. Refuse the allure of the greatest and latest technology.
4. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
5. Develop an appreciation for nature.
6. Reject anything that breeds oppression of others.
7. Develop a habit for giving things away.



**Jesus demands from us exactly what He gives to us—everything.**





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