

John 8:31-32 (NIV)
31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.
32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

THE DISCIPLINE OF ABIDING IN CHRIST

A believer cannot grow to maturity without an eternal perspective.

Understanding Agricultural illustrations



of Hebrews 6:7-8 and John 15:1-11

#1.

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)

27 But I **DISCIPLINE MY BODY AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION**, first, when I have preached to others, I myself should become **disqualified**.

#2.

Are you very serious warning against the danger of regression:

Hebrews 6 (NIV)

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us **go on to perfection**, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,
2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
3 And **this we will do** if God permits.

4 **For it is impossible for those** who **were once enlightened** and **have tasted** the heavenly gift, and **have become** partakers of the Holy Spirit,
5 and **have tasted** the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 **and then fall away**, **to be restored** there again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

7 **For** the earth which drinks in the rain that abounds upon it, and **bears forth** useful for those by whom it is cultivated, **receives blessing from God**;
8 but if it bears **thorns** and **thistles**, it is **rejected** and near to being cursed, **whose end is to be burned**.

48 **ἀλλ' ὅτι ἀδύνατον** (adynamaton), or (not) able, + Gr 66, TDNT 2,248-51, LXX 66: 411 but, not fitting, not in accord with right (most common); ἀποστρέφω (apo strepho), and, deliver (only used), withdrawing (pass), unsupportable (only) (Pse 11:24a); 1. LXX 66:12 **ἀποστρέφω**, all (not) able, normally, failing the test, unfit, unsupportable

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (NIV)
26 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives **the prize**? Then in such a way you must obtain it.
27 And everyone who competes for **the prize** is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for **an imperishable crown**.
28 Therefore I run thus not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air.
29 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, first, when I have preached to others, I myself should become **disqualified**.

Entering the race is analogous to salvation. You have to put your faith alone in Christ alone in order to get saved.

Once you are saved, then we are presented with the opportunity to join the Olympic team as it were to join with fellow Christians who have set their sites on, and **who have determined to compete according to the rules** in order to obtain, this prize **eternal** inheritance.

This isn't about earning the approbation of God; but it takes discipline, it takes effort to prepare our hearts for a lifetime of transforming our thinking to divine truth.

It takes perseverance and endurance to be in the Bible Studies, to be attentive and to listen, and to make decisions that are consistent with the doctrine that we learn, and not just take the easy path allowing the mind to be captivated by the things of this world.

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Pay no attention, avoid
Push away
To not only see
Rejects means

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thorns, thistles = weeds, pests, obstacles

rejected means
Push away
To not only see
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