

## If I Only Had Discipline

If I only had \_\_\_\_\_ I would be satisfied or content...

To live for God and accomplish the things he has created you for will require time and discipline.

Discipline - to bring to a state of order and obedience by training and control.

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT*

**Living with discipline requires an absolute commitment.**

*<sup>8</sup> But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews... <sup>12</sup> "There are some Jews - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - whom you have put in charge of the province of Babylon. They pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up." <sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him... Daniel 3:8,12-13 NLT*

*Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me." Mark 8:34 NLT*

- Start it small, do it right, build it strong.

**Living with discipline requires confidence.**

*<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. <sup>17</sup> If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. <sup>18</sup> But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up." Daniel 3:16-18 NLT*

*"This is my command - be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

**Joshua 1:9 NLT**

**Living with discipline requires consistency.**

- The presence of silence never equals the absence of God.

If God always rescued those who were true to Him, Christians would not need faith.

*<sup>24</sup> But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. <sup>25</sup> "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"*

**Daniel 3:24-25 NLT**

*So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 NLT*

If you give up, you are only guaranteeing that it will never happen.

## Next Steps

- I will begin to live with discipline in \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will trust God even though my circumstances don't make sense to me.
- I will surrender my life to God.

*"There is no other god who can rescue like this!" Daniel 3:29b*