

Developing Self-Discipline  
*Facilitated by*  
Bishop Dr. Willie Moore

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**I. Introduction**

In order to become a master at anything, you have to put in the time to do it. While others are kicking back and enjoying life, you have to sacrifice and spend many hours a day working on skill sets to master them. And the result of that self-disciplined commitment is proficiency in what you do that few can match, whether playing an instrument, learning specific software applications, or writing. You must discipline yourself to mastery.

Biblically, self-discipline may be summarized in one word: obedience.

**II. Ten Steps to Developing Discipline**

1. **Start with small things** – Learning self-discipline in the little things of life prepares the way for big successes. On the other hand, those who are undisciplined in small matters will likely be undisciplined in more important issues. **Song of Solomon 2:15**
  
2. **Get yourself organized** – Have a to-do list of things you need to accomplish.
  
3. **Don't constantly seek to be entertained** – When you have free time, do things that are productive instead of merely entertaining.

4. **Be on time** - If you're supposed to be somewhere at a specific time, be there on time. **Ephesians 5:15-16**
  
5. **Keep your word** – If you say you're going to do something, do it — when you said you would do it and how you said you would do it. **Psalms 15:4**
  
6. **Do the most difficult tasks first** – Most people do just the opposite. They spend their time doing the easier, low priority tasks first.
  
7. **Finish what you start** – Some people's lives are a sad list of unfinished projects.
  
8. **Accept correction** – Correction helps you develop self-discipline by showing you what you need to avoid. **Proverbs 19:20; 15:31-32**
  
9. **Practice self-denial** - Learn to say no to your feelings and compulsions. Sometimes deny yourself pleasures that are perfectly legitimate for you to enjoy. **1 Corinthians 9:27**
  
10. **Welcome responsibility** – Volunteer to do things that need to be done.

### **III. Conclusion**

You cannot split your life into the secular and the spiritual. Instead you must live every aspect of your life to the glory of God. **1 Corinthians 10:31.**

Endure hardness as a good soldier, one who is excellent, precious, useful, and commendable!

**“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4**

### **IV. Questions and Comments**