

## Today's Message Outline: "Spring Training, Part 2"

Three categories of discipline (according to Richard Foster's Celebration of Discipline):

- **Inward** Disciplines: Meditation, prayer, fasting, study
- **Outward** Disciplines: Simplicity, solitude, submission, service
- **Community** Disciplines: Confession, worship, guidance, celebration

### Why "study" of the Scriptures?

"The mind is renewed by applying it to those things that will transform it. 'Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.' (Philippians 4:8 ESV) The discipline of study is the primary vehicle to bring us to 'think about these things'... What we study determines the kind of habits that are formed." – Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline

### What are they?

We believe that the Bible is the **Word of God** and is **inspired** and **inerrant** as originally given.

- Inspired: (theopneustos) – "All Scripture is **breathed out** by God" (2 Tim. 3:16 ESV)
- Inerrancy: All the words of God's Scriptures, in their original form, do not affirm anything contrary to fact.

"Christians find that the Bible's authority, its textual integrity, its historical accuracy, and its transformative power attest to its unique status as God's Word." - Chuck Colson, The Faith.

- Authoritative: All the words in God's Scriptures are words from God and the disbelief or disobedience of them is the disbelief or disobedience of God. (Ps. 12:6; 119:89; Pr. 30:5; Dt 32:47; Mt. 24:35; Jn. 17:17)

If we lack the **truth** of God, we will also lack **trust** in God.

### What do they do?

- They bring **freedom**. (John 8:32)
- They bring **blessing**. (Luke 11:28; Joshua 1:8)
- They build **faith**. (Romans 10:17)
- They build **convictions**. (Jude 1:3)

### What do we do?

(see card in your notes)

### Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. According to the sermon and using your notes above, what are the Scriptures?
2. What does it mean for the Scriptures to be authoritative? Read the Scriptures on the outline under the definition and see what you can add to the definition based on those Scriptures.
3. Of the four things that the Scriptures "do" which one(s) have you seen in your life and which one(s) have you not? Of the four, which one do you want to focus on bringing or building into your life?
4. The "what to do's" are on the card... of those 4 challenges, which one are you going to take on? How will you do that one specifically? Who will you tell about it to keep you accountable?