



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:5-7
- Exodus 16-17
- Numbers 20; Deut. 34:1-12

OBJECT LESSON: SELF-CONTROL

- The Basics
- Incorporating Self-Control
- Discarding Self-Control

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith** as we have obtained, and obtained it in the same way, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:” 2 Peter 1:1

“**For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to add to your faith virtue;** add to virtue, knowledge; add to knowledge, self-control; add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly affection; and add to brotherly affection, love.” 2 Peter 1:5-7

“**If these things are yours** and abound... and...**if you do these things...**” 2 Peter 1:8, 10

“**He who lacks these things** is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It’s as if he has forgotten he’s been completely cleansed from his old sins.” 2 Peter 1:9

“Just as, “**The dog returns to his own vomit,**” and “the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud.”” 2 Peter 2:22

INTRODUCTION: Object Lesson: Self-Control

Faith is the foundation of the Christian life and it is a gift from God that came to you by way of His grace. And you must practice your faith if you wish to gain continual access to that grace. To do so, add these things to your faith in this precise sequence. First add virtue. That means to seek the Lord's voice for what is right in every matter and don't even attempt to seek new information or take any action before you are confident you're in alignment with God's will.

Once you are certain about God's directions, to truly demonstrate wisdom, begin by gathering any missing information before you act. It is only after you have the necessary knowledge to proceed judiciously that you should take any decisive action. It requires excellent self-control to both take wise action and to refrain from acting when God tells you to be still. It is also critical to recognize that challenges and temptations surely await; they will test you, misdirect you, and humble you. Nevertheless, one must stay the course to fulfill God's desires, and that takes perseverance. By the way, unless you humbly come to the conclusion that you made an error that must be corrected before you continue, persist until you succeed; a display of permanent self-control is part of the process. However, if you do discover you've made an error, it is prudent to retrace your steps to find your mistake. Begin by

reconsidering if you've misinterpreted God's original instructions and proceed from there.

This entire process is meant to be pursued in every area of life. Doing so is the very essence of godliness. No doubt, your imperfections will be exposed as you progress, but godliness is not characterized by perfection. Godliness, instead, is the authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection. It's hallmark is a never-ending desire to pursue God's will in all things, and to make the appropriate corrections along the way.

And that is how a disciple of Christ becomes an effective minister of reconciliation—one who readily imparts God's grace. His relentless pursuit of godliness has crafted him into a man whose surrendered life is poured out in sacrifice for the priorities of others. He is a beacon of brotherly affection who exudes kindness, a true disciple of Christ recognized by the love he shares. He imitates the character of Christ, and that is the constant meditation of his heart—to look more and more like Christ by how he loves.

God is love; so, to become love is to become like Christ. Thus, to imitate God's love is the only true measure of a perfect man—the full stature of Christ. And that is the goal of discipleship. Therefore, practice diligently if you wish to experience the fullness of God's precious and exceedingly great promises, the greatest of which is the promise to partake in God's Divine Nature.

THE BASICS

1. Everything Begins with Faith

A. Faith Like Mine

(1) Faith: The Foundation of Everything (See: [Faith Like Mine](#))

(a) Two Faiths: From Faith to Faith

1. “I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ; it is **the power of God for salvation** for everyone who believes, (Jew first also Greek). **In it is revealed God’s righteousness from faith to faith.** As it is written, “But the righteous shall live by faith.”” Romans 1:16-17

a) Righteousness: revealed through the gift of faith.

1) “...to those who have obtained the same precious **faith...**, in the same way, **by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:**” 2 Peter 1:1

b) Righteousness: revealed by the practice of faith!

1) “For this very reason you are required to do your part. **Make every effort to add to your faith...**” 2 Peter 1:5

(b) The gift of faith must become your practice of faith!

1. “Being therefore **justified by faith, we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ; through

whom **we also have our access by faith into this grace** in which we stand..." Romans 5:1-2

a) **Justified by Faith:**

- 1) The gift of faith came by way of God's grace.
- 2) It softened your heart to the Gospel of Salvation.
- 3) The Cross became real (believe-repent-confess).
- 4) All sins instantly forgiven; made right with God.
- 5) No longer in debt to God; now in harmony.

b) **Access by Faith:**

- 1) The practice of faith (you exercise the free gift).
- 2) How you gain continual access to God's grace.
- 3) It empowers you to live as a disciple.
- 4) Leave behind sin of your old life (new creation).
- 5) This distinguishes a disciples from a converts.

B. **Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. Persistent Repetition Accelerates Character Transformation Impacting Christian Ethos.**

(1) The 7 Steps to Practice Faith ([Just Add P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E](#))

(a) Add to your faith: this order is as important as the steps!

1. **"For this very reason you are required to do your part. Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; **add to knowledge, self-control;** add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly

affection; and add to brotherly affection, love." 2

Peter 1:5-7

a) **Faith (Ground 0):**

- 1) The foundation of the Christian life
- 2) A Gift from God that came by His grace
- 3) Practice faith to gain continual access to grace
- 4) Add these things to faith in this sequence:

b) **Virtue (Step 1):**

- 1) Moral excellence (1st) or coordinates will be off
- 2) Morality according to world is ever-changing
- 3) Virtue: whatever is morally excellent to God
- 4) To practice your faith consider:
 - a. What is right to God in this situation?
 - b. What does Yahweh think about this?
 - c. What is God's heart on this matter?

c) **Knowledge (Step 2):**

- 1) Additional information needed to act wisely
- 2) To do what is right: fill the knowledge gap
 - a. What am I missing?
 - b. What do I need to know before I act?

d) **Self-control (Step 3):** to act wisely (not by your first impulses and desires).

- 1) Wisdom: godly application of knowledge, instruction and understanding.
- 2) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.
- 3) Two arms of Self-Control:
 - a. **One:** take action.
 - b. **Two:** to constantly guard that your actions stay in alignment with virtue and knowledge.
- 4) Two components of Self-Control:
 - a. **Do:** once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
 - b. **Do not do:** you must know what not to do and then don't do those things.
- 5) A life of self-control:
 - a. Tell yourself no when yes is so tempting.
 - b. Tell yourself yes when no is more convenient.
- e) **Perseverance (Step 4):** Doing what is right, no matter how hard, how long, or what the cost!
 - 1) **Suffering:** challenges and difficulties are part of the process. (Y'shua suffered, why not you?)
 - 2) No matter how long or what the challenges...
 - a. Persist in what God called you to do.

- b. Abstain from what God called you to abstain.
- 3) Perseverance is PERMANENT SELF-CONTROL.
- a. You know what is right according to God!
 - b. You know how to do it and you do it!
 - c. You discipline yourself from straying off course, but it is still not working as planned!
 - d. The fruit is elusive; the breakthrough absent; suffering persists; and hope starts to fade...
 - e. Don't ever surrender! Don't give up!
 - f. Perseverance: permanent, relentless, never-ending self control
- f) **Godliness (Step 5):** holistic integrity!
- 1) Characterized by the desire to be in alignment with God's in all areas, and then their pursuit...
 - a. All components of your spirit, soul and body are longing to be in complete agreement with what they were designed for by your Creator.
 - b. It does not mean you have perfected your quest, but that you perfected your pursuit!
 - c. The authentic grace-empowered pursuit of perfection, not the achievement of perfection.
- g) **Brotherly Affection (Step 6):**

- 1) Be kind to and prefer others and their needs over yourself and your own needs!
 - a. Christian Alert: It's never been about you!
 - b. Christ did everything for us, not for Himself.
 - c. That is the model of how we should live.
 - d. No greater love is there than to lay down our lives for others.

h) **Love (Step 7):**

- 1) God is love.
- 2) No fear in love; perfect love casts out fear.
- 3) Love is the bond of perfection.
- 4) We can experience God in us.
- 5) We can have the mind of God (think like God).
- 6) We can love like God. *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
- 7) Love is the Divine Nature; goal of discipleship.
- 8) To love like God is to become like Christ!

C. The 1 Thing

(1) Life-Altering Critical Negligence ([The 1 Thing](#))

(a) One thing can shipwreck everything!

1. **"He who lacks these things** is nearsighted; he is approaching total blindness. It's as if he's forgotten

he's been completely cleansed from his old sins." 2

Peter 1:9

- a) Lacks what? Practice adding to your Faith: Virtue...
- b) Cause of Blindness: living *in the past* prevents you from seeing *in the future*!
 - 1) Forgetting you've ALREADY been cleansed...
 - a. You will not pursue... adding to your faith...
(You will instead pursue your past sins!)
 - b. Fullness of God's promises becomes elusive.
 - c. Participation in Divine Nature—impossible!
- c) Why is forgetting so devastating?
 - 1) He who holds onto his past is bound to repeat it
 - a. ***"The dog returns to his own vomit,"*** and *"the pig that has washed returns to wallowing in the mud."* 2 Peter 2:22
- d) How then should you live?
 - 1) ***"For we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles, and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries."***
1 Peter 4:3
 - 2) *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every*

*weight, and **sin which clings so closely**, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us**,*” Hebrews 12:1 ESV

- a. You’ve invested too much into your former pagan life. Don’t invest one more resource!
- b. Don’t even go near your past sins!
- c. Leave the past in the past and pursue becoming more like Christ every day!

(b) That is why YOU are being REMINDED!

1. “Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things**, though **you know them** and are **established in the present truth**. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly**, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. Yes, **I will make every effort that you may always be able to remember these things** even after my departure.” 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

- a) What Peter has to say is so important that he uses his last words before his execution to remind his students, and us, of the these truths...
- b) Not new information; already fully established...

1) *“If these things are yours and abound... and... if you do these things...”* 2 Peter 1:8, 10

(c) This is Peter’s second letter written to remind them...

1. “This is now, beloved, the second letter that I have written to you; and **in both of them I stir up your sincere mind by reminding you that you should remember the words** which were spoken before **by the holy prophets and the commandment of us**, the apostles of the Lord and Savior,” 2 Peter 3:1-2

a) **A greater sense of urgency:** a more critical letter because he knows he’s about to be executed (*“I know that putting off of my tent is imminent.”*)

b) Message is consistent with prophetic Scriptures.

(d) Peter also reveals that Paul taught similar things...

1. “Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, **be diligent to be found in peace, without defect and blameless** in his sight. Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; **even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, as also in all of his letters, speaking in them of these things.** In those, there are some things that are **hard to understand**, which the ignorant and unsettled **twist, as they also do to the other**

Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, **knowing these things beforehand, beware, lest being carried away with the error** of the wicked, you fall from your own steadfastness." 2 Peter 3:14-17 WEBUS

- a) Unlike Peter who was a simple fisherman, Paul is a scholar who writes in a way that the average man has difficulty understanding his complexities.
 - 1) See the introduction to 2 Peter: [A Last Will & Testament](#), for a comparison between the characters traits of a fisherman and a scholar.

INCORPORATING SELF-CONTROL

2. Adding Self-Control to Knowledge

A. What does it mean to add Self-Control to your Knowledge?

- (1) To know what God wants you to do and how, **and to do it!**
 - (a) Add to your faith
 - 1. "For this very reason you are required to do your part. **Make every effort to** add to your faith virtue; add to virtue, knowledge; **add to knowledge, self-control;** add to self-control, perseverance; add to perseverance, godliness; add to godliness, brotherly

affection; and add to brotherly affection, love.” 2

Peter 1:5-7

2. The sequence is as important as the steps: **add to knowledge, self-control...**

a) **Knowledge (Step 2):** Additional information needed to act wisely.

1) To do what is right: fill the knowledge gap.

a. What am I missing?

b. What do I need to know before I act?

b) **Self-control (Step 3):** to act wisely (not by your first impulses and desires).

1) Wisdom: godly application of knowledge, instruction and understanding.

2) Once you know what God wants you to do and you have filled in the knowledge gap, you must have the self-control to do it.

3) **From our Introduction:** *It is only after you have the necessary knowledge to proceed judiciously that you should take any decisive action. It requires excellent self-control to both take wise action and to refrain from acting when God tells you to be still.*

4) Two arms of Self-Control:

- a. **One:** take action.
 - b. **Two:** to constantly guard that your actions stay in alignment with virtue and knowledge.
- 5) Two components of Self-Control:
- a. **Do:** once you know what to do and how to do it, you must do it.
 - b. **Do not do:** you must know what not to do and then don't do those things.

(2) A Life of Self-Control

(a) **Tell yourself YES when no is more convenient:**

1. "Every man who strives in the games **exercises self-control in all things.** Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but **I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.**"

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 WEBUS

(b) **Tell yourself NO when yes is so tempting:**

1. "Thus **consider yourselves also to be dead to sin,** but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore **don't let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**" Romans 6:11-12 WEBUS

(c) **The battle between YES and NO:**

1. **“For I don’t understand what I am doing. For I don’t practice what I desire to do; but what I hate, that I do.** But if what I don’t desire, that I do, I consent to the law that it is good. So now it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. **For desire is present with me, but I don’t find it doing that which is good. For the good which I desire, I don’t do; but the evil which I don’t desire, that I practice.”**

Romans 7:15-19 WEBUS

B. Object Lesson: Self-Control

(1) The Backstory (Exodus 1-16)

- (a) **The Path to Deliverance (Exodus 1-15):** testimonies of hearing, believing, trusting, obeying and the RESULT!

1. **Exodus 1:** Israel is thriving in Egypt; a new Pharaoh, who does not know of Joseph and fears their growing dominance, enslaves them, forces them into hard labor, and attempts to murder all newborn sons to stifle their growth and development as a nation.
2. **[Exodus 2]** Moses is born; is hidden from Pharaoh to survive; is then raised by Pharaoh’s daughter, but must flee to Midian in exile at 40 years old.

3. **[Exodus 3]** Moses meets Yahweh in the burning bush and chooses to investigate; he discovers God's identity and receives his new assignment to deliver his people from bondage.
4. **[Exodus 4]** Moses resists his calling; is shown miraculous signs that Yahweh is serious; relates that he is not eloquent enough to deliver God's message; is assured by God that He will provide His words for Moses and teach him what to say; is given Aaron, his brother as a spokesman; drops his family off with his father-in-law Jethro and gets permission to leave for Egypt; but not before Zipporah, his wife, circumcises their son and calls Moses a 'husband of blood'; Moses heads back to Egypt; informs his people of his new purpose; and shows them them God's signs.
5. **[Exodus 5]** Moses has his first encounter with Pharaoh; it does not go well; Pharaoh makes things harder on the people; the people are furious with Moses; and Moses returns to Yahweh discouraged.
6. **[Exodus 6]** God encourages Moses to try again; reminds him of Israel's history; God reiterates the message for the people and for Pharaoh; Moses'

family line is detailed; and Moses reiterates to God his inability to articulate the message.

7. **[Exodus 7-12]** Aaron is affirmed as Moses' spokesman and turns his rod into a serpent for Pharaoh; Pharaoh is unimpressed as his magicians copy the miracle (although Aaron's rod swallowed their rods); the 10 Plagues (10 Testimonies) are described (Blood, Frogs, Lice, Flies, Diseased Livestock, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of the Firstborn); Passover is instituted with its regulations; and the Exodus is encapsulated with the need for unleavened bread.
8. **[Exodus 13]** the firstborn are consecrated; the Feast of Unleavened Bread is instituted; the law of the firstborn is introduced; Israel sets out on its journey with Joseph's bones in hand, but is instructed by God to exit in a particular direction toward the Red Sea; they are led by a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night.
9. **[Exodus 14]** Israel is backed up and seemingly trapped against the Red Sea; Pharaoh decides to chase them down to destroy them; the people **lose faith and complain they would have been better off**

having stayed in Egypt (**a theme that repeats itself over and over in this narrative*); Moses touches the water with his **rod** and the sea parts by the power of God; Israel passes through the Red Sea on dry ground and into the wilderness; and the entire Egyptian army follows them only to be drowned, as the sea collapses in on them.

- a) **“**Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.**”* Philippians 2:14-16 NKJV

10. [Exodus 15] the Song of Moses is composed describing the events of the Red Sea Crossing; the Song of Miriam (Moses and Aaron’s sister) is sung, *“Sing to Yahweh, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!”*; the people travel three days into the wilderness, **cannot find water and *complain again to Moses**; God promises Moses that if the people obey Him

they will never face the diseases He brought on the Egyptians; God provides 12 wells of drinking water!

(b) **[The backstory continues in Exodus 16]** Israel came into the wilderness on the 15th day of the 2nd month after their departing Egypt on Passover (which is the 15th day of the 1st month).

1. The people are hungry and ***again complain;** Yahweh provides 'Meat' and 'Bread.'
 - a) Israel murmurs against Moses and Aaron.
 - b) *“**We wish that we had died** by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots, when we ate our fill of bread, for **you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**”*
2. Yahweh tells Moses...
 - a) I will provide bread from heaven.
 - b) The people shall gather only a daily portion.
 - c) It’s a test to see if they will obey My law.
 - d) On the sixth day of the week (Friday), they shall gather twice as much, so they have a portion for the Sabbath (Saturday).
3. Moses and Aaron tell the people that **Yahweh hears them complaining.**

- a) Tonight you will remember that He brought you out of Egypt; in the morning you will see His glory.
 - b) Besides, who are we that you murmur against us?
4. Moses says, because you complain against Yahweh...
- a) And so we are clear, you are not murmuring against us, but against Yahweh!
 - b) To satisfy your hunger, He will give you meat tonight and bread in the morning.
5. Moses says to Aaron...
- a) Tell the congregation to 'Look closely for Yahweh; He has heard your murmurings.'
 - b) Aaron tells them to look toward the wilderness and Yahweh's glory appeared in the cloud.
6. Yahweh speaks again to Moses...
- a) I have heard the chronic complaints of Israel.
 - b) Tell them that in the evening they shall eat meat and in the morning they shall be filled with bread.
 - c) This will affirm that I am Yahweh their God.
7. That night quail came and covered the camp; and the morning dew looked like small round pieces of frost.
- a) The people wondered what it was.
 - b) Moses tells them... *"It is the bread which Yahweh told you He would give you to eat."*

- c) This is Yahweh's instructions:
 - 1) Gather one omer for each member of your family daily. (When they complied, every family had exactly what they needed.)
 - 2) Moses instructed them to not save any 'bread' for the next day.
- 8. Notwithstanding, some didn't listen to Moses...
 - a) Anyone who saved some for the next morning, found it spoiled and filled with worms. (This angered Moses.)
 - b) They had to gather it each morning because when the sun got hot, it melted.
 - c) On the sixth day (Friday), they could gather twice as much because Yahweh had revealed that the next day (Saturday) was a solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to Yahweh.
 - d) On Friday you can prepare also for Saturday and you can keep it overnight and it will not spoil.
- 9. Moses says...
 - a) Eat what remains from Friday on the Sabbath to Yahweh and don't try to collect any on the Sabbath morning, you will not find anything.

b) *“Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day is the Sabbath. There shall be none.”*

10. Again, some didn't obey. (Are you shocked?)

a) On the seventh day (Sabbath), some attempted to gather this 'bread', but found none.

b) Yahweh rebukes Moses; *“How long do you refuse to keep My commandments (instructions & laws)?*

Notice: as the leader, Moses is accountable!

c) Moses repeats the rule:

1) Yahweh made the Sabbath for a reason; on the 6th day you can gather enough bread for 2 days.

2) Stay home; don't gather on the 7th day.

3) Note: *“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”* Mark 2:27 WEBUS

d) So, the people rested on the seventh day.

e) Israel called the bread “Manna”

f) It was like white coriander seed and tasted like wafers with honey.

11. Moses then informs the people...

a) Yahweh commands us to preserve an omer of Manna for generations to come for all to witness the bread He used to feed us in the wilderness when we left Egypt.

- b) Moses instructs Aaron to place the omer of Manna before Yahweh in the Ark of the Covenant next to the two tablets. (Aaron complies)
- c) Note: Israel ate manna for forty years in the wilderness; the day they entered the promised land it ceased.

(2) Self-Control: Doing what you know to do! (Exodus 17)

(a) **[Exodus 17:1-7]** Strike the rock and you will get water!

1. Israel continued into the wilderness, as directed by Yahweh. When they encamped in Rephidim, they found no drinking water.

a) **The people blamed Moses and argued** that he should produce drinking water.

b) Moses redirects: *“Why are you blaming me?”* You should be asking yourself, *“Why am I testing Yahweh?”*

c) In their thirst (as people often do with trials) they look for someone to blame... (**more complaining*)

1) **They murmured against Moses and accused him** of dragging them (families and livestock) out of Egypt to die from thirst.

2. Moses runs to Yahweh for an answer...

- a) *“What shall I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”*
3. Yahweh answers...
- a) Go before the people; take the elders with you and your rod (the one you used to strike the Nile).
 - b) I will be with you on the rock in Horeb.
 - c) **Strike the rock with your rod and drinking water will pour out!**
4. Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- a) The perfect object lesson: Moses incorporates **Self-Control!**
 - 1) **Seek Yahweh:** *“What shall I do with these people?”*
 - 2) **Hear His voice:** *“Go before the people with your rod.”*
 - 3) **Learn what to do:** *“Strike the rock.”*
 - 4) **Do it:** *“Drinking water poured out!”*
 - b) Where this occurred became known by 2 names:
 - a) **Massah:** because they tested Yahweh by doubting He was with them.
 - b) **Meribah:** because they blamed Moses for their trial (quarreling, strife, contention).
- (b) **[Exodus 17:8-16]** Victory for doing what Yahweh says.

1. Results of Self-Control: Amalek comes to fight with Israel in Rephidim
2. Moses says to Joshua...
 - a) Choose men to fight Amalek.
 - b) Tomorrow, I'll stand atop the hill with **God's rod** in my hand.
 - c) Joshua did as Moses instructed...
 - d) Moses, Aaron, and Hur stood atop the hill.
 - e) When Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed.
 - f) When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.
3. His hands became heavy, so they sat him on a stone.
 - a) Aaron and Hur each held up one of Moses' hands until total victory at sunset.
4. Object Lesson: Moses incorporates **Self-Control!**
 - a) Victory over Amalekites
 - b) Joshua defeated Amalek.
5. Yahweh says to Moses...
 - a) Write these events as a memorial in a book.
 - b) Read it to Joshua as a reminder that He will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek.
 - c) Moses built an altar and called it "Yahweh our Banner".

- d) Yah has sworn: *“Yahweh will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”*
- e) See [Object Lesson: Virtue](#) (1 Samuel 15): King Saul was commanded to utterly destroy the Amalekites approximately 380 years later (Exodus circa 1446 BC; Saul battled the Amalekites circa 1063 BC).

DISCARDING SELF-CONTROL

3. Not Adding Self-Control to Knowledge

A. Object Lesson: Discarding Self-Control

- (1) Rebellion: When you know what God wants and how do to it, **and you don't!**
 - (a) [**Numbers 20:1-13**] Moses strikes the rock twice when this time he is told to speak to the rock once.
 - 1. Almost 40 years after the Exodus:
 - a) Israel arrives in wilderness of Zin in the first month (the month of Passover).
 - b) The people camp in Kadesh.
 - c) Miriam (Moses & Aaron's sister) dies and is buried.
 - 2. Repeat Performance:
 - a) There is no drinking water.
 - b) The congregation assembles against Moses and Aaron.

3. Can you imagine?
 - a) **They quarrel with, *complain against, and blame Moses...**
 - 1) “We wish that we had died when our brothers died before Yahweh!”
 - 2) “Why have you brought Yahweh’s assembly into this wilderness to die with our animals?”
 - 3) “Why did you make us leave Egypt to come to this evil place?”
 - 4) “It’s no place to plant seeds, nor grow figs, vines, and pomegranates.”
 - 5) **And there is no water to drink!**
4. Moses and Aaron fall on their faces before Yahweh at the door of the Tent of Meeting
 - a) Yahweh’s glory appears to them and He speaks to Moses
 - 1) “Take **the rod**, and assemble the congregation, you, and Aaron your brother, and **speak to the rock before their eyes, that it pour out its water**. You shall bring water to them out of the rock; so you shall give the congregation and their livestock drink.” Numbers 20:8
5. Moses took his rod as Yahweh commanded...

a) Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock, and he says, “Hear now, you rebels! Shall we bring water out of this rock for you?”

1) *Moses lifted up his hand, **and struck the rock with his rod twice**, and water came out abundantly.* Numbers 20:8

2) The congregation and their livestock drank.

6. Consequences for **Discarding Self-Control**

a) Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron...

1) *“Because you didn’t believe in Me, **to sanctify Me** in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.”* Numbers 20:12

b) Yahweh called these the waters of **Meribah (quarreling, strife, contention)**, as He did in Rephidim when Moses first brought forth water from a Rock.

1) Again, the children of Israel strove against Yahweh and blamed Moses for their thirst.

2) And Yahweh was made holy in their sight.

(2) Consequence for Discarding Self-Control Fulfilled:

(a) **[Deuteronomy 34:1-12]** Moses Dies in the Wilderness

1. Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo opposite Jericho; Yahweh showed him all the land and said...
 - a) This is the land which I swore to give to the children of Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.
 - b) *“I have caused you to see it with your eyes, **but you shall not go over there.**”* Deuteronomy 34:4b
 - c) *“**Moses died there** in the land of Moab, according to Yahweh’s word.”* Deuteronomy 34:5
 - d) He was buried in the valley in the land of Moab, but no man knows where his tomb is to this day.
 - e) *“Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was not dim, nor his strength gone.”*
 - f) The children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days.
 - g) When the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended, Joshua took over!
2. Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.
 - a) The children of Israel listened to him, and did as Yahweh commanded Moses.
 - b) *“Since then, there has not arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face, in all*

the signs and the wonders which Yahweh sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land, and in all the mighty hand, and in all the awesome deeds, which Moses did in the sight of all Israel.” Deuteronomy 34:10-12

(3) **A Life of Self-Control**

(a) Tell yourself YES when no is more convenient:

1. “Every man who strives in the games **exercises self-control in all things**. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but **I beat my body and bring it into submission, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.**”

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 WEBUS

(b) Tell yourself NO when yes is so tempting:

1. “Thus **consider yourselves also to be dead to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore **don’t let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**” Romans 6:11-12 WEBUS

(c) The battle between YES and NO:

1. “For **I don’t understand what I am doing. For I don’t practice what I desire to do; but what I hate, that I do.** But if what I don’t desire, that I do, I consent to the law that it is good. So now it is no more I that do it, but sin which dwells in me. For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwells no good thing. **For desire is present with me, but I don’t find it doing that which is good. For the good which I desire, I don’t do; but the evil which I don’t desire, that I practice.**”
Romans 7:15-19 WEBUS

(4) **Conclusion:** the perfect object lessons; to Incorporate or Discard Self-Control

(a) Moses **Incorporates Self-Control!**

1. **Seek Yahweh:** *“What shall I do with these people?”*
2. **Hear His voice:** *“Go before the people with your rod.”*
3. **Learn what to do:** *“Strike the rock.”*
4. **Do it:** *“Drinking water poured out!”*
5. **Shortly after:** *Israel goes to war against the Amalekites.*
6. **Incorporating Self-Control:** *“Joshua defeats the Amalekites.”*

(b) Moses **Discards Self-Control!**

1. **Seek Yahweh:** *“Moses and Aaron fall on their faces before Yahweh at the door of the Tent of Meeting.”*
2. **Hear His voice:** *“Take the rod, and assemble the congregation, you, and Aaron your brother.”*
3. **Learn what to do:** *“**Speak to the rock** before the people and water will pour out.”*
4. **Not doing it:** *“Moses lifted up his hand, and **struck the rock** with his rod twice and water came out abundantly”*
5. **Shortly after:** *“You shall not bring this assembly into the promised land.”*
6. **Discarding Self-Control:** *“I have caused you to see the promised land with your eyes, but **you shall not go over there. Then, Moses died in the land of Moab, according to Yahweh’s word.**”*

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Read the introduction three times.

- A. Define Self-Control.
- B. Why must it be the step after knowledge and before perseverance in the practice of your faith?

2. Personal Object Lesson:

- A. Describe a time in your life when you knew what God wanted you to do, how to do it, and you did it. What was the outcome?
- B. Describe a time when knew God wanted you to be still and you were still. What was the outcome?
- C. Describe a time in your life when you knew what God wanted you to do, how to do it, and you disregarded it. What was the outcome?
- D. Describe a time when knew God wanted you to be still and you acted instead. What was the outcome?

3. Transformation:

- A. What did you or will you do to correct your errors in discussion points 2C and 2D?
- B. What will you do in the future to ensure you do not repeat the same mistake?