

Slaying Dragons – Daniel Kolenda

Chapter 7 – Discipline, Consecration, & Spiritual Authority

The number shown in brackets is the page where the passage shown may be found.

[p102] Any demon you tolerate will stay with you. Too many people are tormented by spirits that would in fact leave if they were no longer welcome.

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

[p103] Satan's only power is the power we give him.

[p103] Jesus' victory over the forces of darkness cannot merely remain a theological or positional truth. It must become practical. It must become a lifestyle.

[p103] If we yield to something, we agree with it. This agreement then manifests in our actions, even if our words declare God's truth. Such disparity between our words and lives will carry no weight against satanic forces. (*Example: "new normal"*)

[p104] Our authority comes from our submission to God's authority. In fact, submission to God contradicts human pride, self-confidence, and religious works. Submission to God recognizes our deep and desperate need for His grace.

[p104] If we do not submit to God in our lifestyle, we actually resist His authority.

[p104] Not even mighty warrior angels possess authority within themselves over demonic forces. It comes from God alone. Likewise, our authority comes from being under His authority.

[p105] Jesus made it clear that we cannot serve two masters. We must choose one or the other (Matt. 6:24). If we are not submitted to Christ, then we are enslaved to sin (Rom. 6:16–23).

DISCIPLINE

[p105] though we were not saved by good works, we were saved for good works.

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[p106] whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, that thing is a sin to you, however innocent it may be in itself."

FASTING

[p106] When we fast, we give up something we want or even need to make more space for God in our lives.

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[p106] When we put our basic needs temporarily on hold in order to know and serve God better, it directly thwarts Satan's agenda to put ourselves first. It also signals that he will make little headway with us.

[p107] Fasting and prayer are spiritual disciplines that should be close at hand for every believer.

[p108] The prince blocked God's angelic messenger from his destination, which was with Daniel.

[p109] **First**, God's concern for His friends is paramount. The moment Daniel prayed, God answered. Though the arrival of the answer was delayed because of spiritual resistance, the answer itself was immediate.

[p109] **Second**, when factors we do not fully comprehend get in the way, we can rest assured that our Father has already seen to everything we need.

[p109] **Third**, one person's actions can influence the much larger picture.

[p109] Daniel's fast was an act of spiritual warfare that had significant influence on a conflict in the heavens and a breakthrough on the earth.

[p109] **Fourth**, a benefit of fasting is the involvement our physical bodies in our quest for spiritual answers.

[p110] The body and spirit are in turn bridged by a soul comprised of our intellect, emotions, and will.

[p110] Starving the body for a short season strengthens the spirit the same way pruning a tree produces more fruit.

[p111] It is a strange irony that as the flesh weakens, we begin to sense a greater strength and authority in the spirit.

Discipline of Self-Denial: Solitude

[p111] The practice of taking time away from others with the specific intent of being alone with God.

Discipline of Self-Denial: Silence

[p112] When we are quiet in both our environment and our minds, we more clearly hear the "still, small voice" through which the Spirit often chooses to speak.

Discipline of Self-Denial: Fasting

[p112] The intentional refusal of food and/or drink for a period of time.

Discipline of Self-Denial: Sacrifice

[p112] The practice of giving of our time, talent, or treasure whereby we ourselves no longer have what we need to meet our basic requirements.

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Discipline of Self-Denial: Secrecy

[p113] The practice of withholding from others information about our spiritual lives or generosity.

Discipline of Self-Denial: Submission

[p113] The voluntary surrender of our own will with the specific intent of fulfilling God's will.

Discipline of Engagement: Study of Scripture

[p113] Reading the Bible with an eye toward understanding the contexts of specific passages, learning the author's intent, revealing the overall themes, and memorizing various verses.

Discipline of Engagement: Worship

[p113] Offering God thanks and adoration for His divine attributes

Discipline of Engagement: Prayer

[p113] Conversing with God, especially with an awareness of our dependence on Him to satisfy our spiritual, mental, physical, social, and financial needs.

Discipline of Engagement: Meditation

[p113] Paul described this as setting our minds on things above.

Discipline of Engagement: Community

[p114] Meeting with other believers for fellowship, worship, prayer, prophecy, and the Lord's Supper

Discipline of Engagement: Reflection

[p114] Contemplating our inner selves to recognize and appreciate the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Discipline of Engagement: Service

[p114] Giving of our time, talents, and treasure to meet the needs of others.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

If fasting doesn't make God answer our prayers, what does it do?

Self-discipline doesn't always seem like fun. How would you encourage others to keep it up?

From what temptations might the various disciplines listed in this chapter bring freedom? (Example: Sacrifice is an antidote for greed.)

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What is the role of our physical bodies in spiritual warfare?