

ABCs of the Christian Life

What spiritual training is:

Every parent knows that a child needs to learn the ABCs in order to be able to read so that he will be **productive** in life. It's not just about a student trying for a year, but **training** for a lifetime (*1 Corinthians 9:24-27*). It is about getting to know God and loving Him by loving others (*Matthew 22:37-39*).

Definition:

"Following Jesus Christ simply means **learning** from Him how to arrange my life around activities that enable me to live with the fruit of the Spirit." *Galatians 5:22-23* "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

8 key spiritual disciplines:

Assurance of Salvation – *Philippians 1:6* "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Bible Reading – *2 Timothy 2:15* "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Connecting with God – *Ephesians 6:18* "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."

Doctrinal Direction – *1 Peter 3:15* "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Evangelistic Outreach – *Matthew 28:19-20* "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Following God's Will – *Psalms 143:10* "Teach me to do thy will: for thou art my God..."

Giving to God – *Proverbs 3:9-10* "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Heart Exercises – *1 Timothy 4:7* "...and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."