

Working for a
(Spiritual) Living

We take pride in **working hard**
for something and achieving
it.

"Hard work **beats talent** when talent doesn't work hard."

— Tim Notke, basketball coach

Barna Research

81% of self-identified Christians say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still in their life today.

78% of self-identified Christians strongly agreed that spirituality is very important to them.

Barna Research

Only **18%** of self-identified Christians claim to be totally committed to investing in their own spiritual development.

“[Sometimes] you won’t feel that you’re **making any progress at all**, [and fellowship with God] maybe episodic. But when your prayers are lifted toward a God of grace, at just the unexpected moment, **you find that you know how to pedal**, and that you are headed toward home.

— Tim Keller

The **struggle** in spiritual disciplines is what makes them exceptional.

Proverbs 13: Proverbs 13: 4 The soul of the sluggard
craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the **diligent** is **richly supplied**.

Exodus 25-31

Preparations for the tabernacle
of Yahweh.

Exodus 33: 12 Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ 13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways **so I may know you and continue to find favor with you.** Remember that this nation is your people.”

Exodus 33: 14 The Lord replied, “My Presence **will go with you**, and I will give you rest.”

Exodus 25: 2 You are to receive the offering for me from everyone whose heart prompts them to give. 3 These are the offerings you are to receive from them: gold, silver and bronze; 4 blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen; goat hair; 5 ram skins dyed red and another type of durable leather; acacia wood; 6 olive oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; 7 and onyx stones and other gems to be mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.

Exodus 25: 8 “Then have them make a sanctuary
for me, and I will dwell among them.

If you create a space for God

God will fill it.

It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard,
everyone would do it. **The hard... is what
makes it great.**

-A League of Their Own





The most difficult part of
maintaining a spiritual discipline

but creating space for it.

Ephesians 5: 15 Look carefully then how you walk,
not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the **best use
of the time**, because the days are evil.

Problem: We remove the difficulty
of seeking the Lord's presence

and call it a blessing.

1 Corinthians 3: Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are **still worldly**—mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were **not yet ready** for it. Indeed, you are **still not ready**. 3 You are **still worldly**. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

A spiritually immature
Christian **can't handle** the
truth.





I gave him the perfect 6 pack tattoo in 2 days!!

A spiritually immature
Christian **stalls**
transformation.

2 Corinthians 3: 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

James 3: 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be **false to the truth**. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is **earthly, unspiritual, demonic**. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. (ESV)

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition, **when infinite joy is offered us**, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. **We are far too easily pleased.** --CS Lewis

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