

FORMATIONAL DISCIPLINE

WEEK ONE
FOUNDATIONS

**How do you react to the term “discipline”? What does it mean to you?
Does it primarily have a positive or negative connotation?**

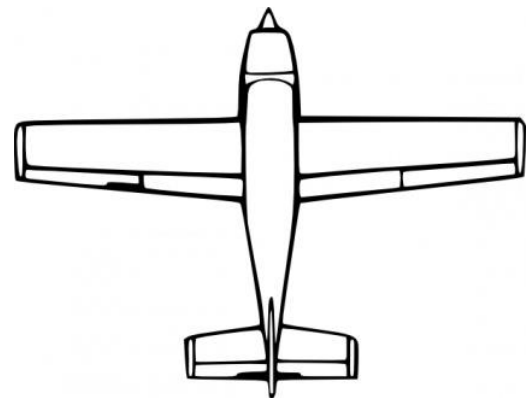
Defining Discipline: what does it mean from a biblical perspective?

Driving Discipline: what motivates discipline in the Christian life?
Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 12:5-11

“What does it mean that God administers His discipline in the realm of grace? It means that all His teaching, training, and discipline are administered in love and for our spiritual welfare. It means that God is never angry with us, though He is often grieved at our sins. It means He does not condemn us or count our sins against us. All that He does in us and to us is done on the basis of unmerited favor.”

Jerry Bridges, The Discipline of Grace

Dependent Discipline: how do we and God work together?
Psalm 127:1; John 15:4-5



**“God’s work does not make our effort unnecessary,
but rather makes it effective.”**

Bridges

EXERCISE

For each of the passages of Scripture below, where can you identify the drive of discipline (God's grace to make us holy), human effort for discipline, and dependence on God?

	Drive	Discipline	Dependence
1 Corinthians 15:10			
Colossians 1:28-29			
Philippians 2:12-13			

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. How do you perceive the connection between discipline and grace? Do you tend to see discipline (either by God or of yourself) as motivated by grace or something else (guilt, obligation, etc.)?

2. How do you do each day with acknowledging your dependence on God? Do you regularly seek His empowering presence or are you more inclined to operate in the strength of your own willpower?

Be in prayer this week about where God wants to bring discipline into your life and where you need to grow in dependence on Him.