

Disciplined Faith - Week 11

I'm going to be honest with y'all. It's been hard for me lately to get in God's Word, to pray, and honestly to do anything that's going to take time out of my busy days that doesn't "need" to get done. Maybe you've felt that way too. If you have, I hope it's comforting to know you're not the only one. This isn't the first time I've felt like this either.

The first thing I tell myself when this happens is, it's okay. God isn't angry with me. He's not mad at me. He isn't waiting for me to get everything together before He loves me again. The fact that you're even recognizing that you want to spend more time with Him is a good sign. It shows that you loved Him and have the Holy Spirit in you.

The second thing I do is read my Bible or pray... even when I don't feel like it. That's called discipline. Our motivations and desire to read our Bible comes and goes, but discipline helps us stay close to God even on the days we don't feel motivated. And the best part is, God isn't asking you to spend hours reading your Bible. Maybe it's one chapter. Maybe it's one verse. Maybe it's a five-minute prayer while you're getting ready for school. Every form matters and is appreciated by God.

Sometimes we think everything has to be perfect before we can come to Jesus. But that's not true at all. Jesus doesn't need us to be perfect because we never could be. He invites us to come exactly as we are. Mark 2:17 says, *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* Jesus didn't come for people who have it all together. He came for people who know they need Him.

So if you've been feeling like a slug lately, don't let that keep you away from God. He isn't mad at you, He's waiting for you.

From Kaity