

ORDER IN
CHAOS



CHRIS DOWNS

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ORDER IN CHAOS

Order in Chaos User's Guide

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:



Each week, read one of the left pages,
then read the suggested scripture(s).
Meditate on how they relate to your life.
Write down your thoughts on the right.

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ORDER IN CHAOS

BASEBALL

Imagine the world as a baseball. God's the pitcher and you're up to bat. God can choose to throw the ball in any direction, but when it comes in range, you can choose to be prepared and go for a home run, bunt and try to take life base-by-base, or simply strike out and let someone else take over.

Many people wait all across the field of life to catch your ball and prevent you from making it home, whereas God will always throw the pitch right to you. It's just your responsibility to be ready for the right time to swing. Miss it by a fraction and the ball (your world) may not go where you need it to in order to gain a home run.



Suggested Reading

1 Peter 5:8

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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EVOLUTION

I don't think we came from monkeys, but I do believe in evolution. I believe that God set up a system for nature to govern itself, whereas mankind was in itself the unique of all creation. I believe that He could have created creations till he finally thought "okay, these ones aren't doing it for me so I guess it's time to just make them in our image." Does it matter if evolution is real or not? No. What matters is that we're here, God's real, and we breath the air He made.



Suggested Reading

Genesis 1:27

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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RACE

I believe race to be diversity as we have with ethnic foods. God simply didn't want everyone to be one color, just as within each color, people have many different faces. Imagine a world with only one race, and soon you'll be bored. I'm glow-in-the-dark white, probably because generations of my ancestors lived in cloudy areas of Europe, whereas some people are darker, and have genealogies that came from equatorial areas of the planet (sunny places). Does this mean one of us isn't human? No, it just means God never stops creating.



Suggested Reading

Revelation 7:9

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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TIME PARADOX

If God created all things, then how did He create himself? It's simple, He didn't. He's outside the bounds of time and has always been, and will always be.



Suggested Reading

John 1:1

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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BAD THINGS

If God cares then why does He let bad things happen? When I was a kid, my dad let me play with an extension cord...right next to a power outlet. He warned me I'd get electric-shock if I touched both ends, but it took me actually touching both ends to understand what electricity was.



Suggested Reading

Romans 8:28

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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DIET

Even though all food is good, it must be taken in regards to your health. As your body is the temple of God, you must keep it clean. This can also be applied to smoking, as smoking is slowly killing yourself and ruining God's temple.



Suggested Reading
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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JUDGING

God is the great judge. He's who decides where you'll spend eternity, but he doesn't send you to hell. Only you can choose to go to hell by denying Him. Also, do not judge others as there is only one judge. Who are humans to judge others when we are all created equal and born into the same sin?



Suggested Reading

Matthew 7:1

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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WORD

The Bible says that those who live by the sword will die by the sword, but it also says that during the end times he who doesn't have a sword should pick one up. But what is a sword? It is the sword of the Spirit which is God's word. So to live by the sword and to know that you shall die by the sword, be at peace knowing it is because you chose to pick up God's word that it will be with you till the end.



Suggested Reading

Ephesians 6:13-17

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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OT

Some say that the Old Testament is useless. I disagree. Isaiah 46:10 states that “I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come...” NIV.



Suggested Reading

Isaiah 46:10

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



A large rectangular frame with decorative corner brackets. Inside the frame, there are 18 horizontal lines for writing, providing space for personal meditation notes.

ALIENS

Do they exist? Would it change the fact that we were still created if proof was found? Who's to say that angels aren't what we think of as aliens? Who's to say that God, in all his infinite creativity couldn't create another species out there somewhere just to have more creation under his belt? Why should it matter if they do or don't exist?



Suggested Reading

Psalms 91:11

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



A large rectangular box with a thin black border and small square corner markers. Inside the box are 18 horizontal lines for writing, providing space for personal meditation notes.

CURSING

“But, didn’t you just talk about cursing?” No. Cursing and cussing are two very different things, while both are for evil works. Cussing is language, whereas cursing is like casting a spell. Think of it this way: If you tell a kid he’s worthless and will never amount to anything, you’ve put a curse on him by making him think he’s nothing. Maybe he’ll live the rest of his life depressed and feeling useless, when he could have been much more had you not cursed him. So in short, don’t curse.



Suggested Reading

Leviticus 19:14

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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CHURCH

“Did God really say you have to go?” That question comes from the pit of hell, and death follows it. Yes, God says we’re required to go. It doesn’t mean it has to be in a building. As long as it’s a congregation, in worship, in study, in faith, in prayer, and in alignment with God’s word, then it’s church. Keep the Sabbath holy. Don’t let any excuse keep you from going to church and worshiping God with fellow Christians. Be thankful you’re in a country where you *can* worship Him!



Suggested Reading

Exodus 20:8

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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CORRECTION

It is my own personal belief that anyone who ignores correction is either too lazy or selfish to make himself into a better person. We daily can find ways to correct ourselves. We can always be on the lookout for how we can better serve God's Kingdom and we can always accept correction with a big smile. If we don't, then we must think we're already perfect...and we all know that's wrong.



Suggested Reading

Proverbs 12:1

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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FIRST TO LAST

We all know that God’s Kingdom seems to be “upside-down,” from ours, but know that if you’re in the back of the line, you can be first to get seconds.



Suggested Reading

Matthew 19:30

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



Handwriting lines for personal meditation notes.

SOBER

How can anyone justify not being sober when it impairs their walk with God? The Bible says to be of sober mind. So be it! Even if your crutch is smoking cigarettes, are you really going to let that little cancer-stick control you?



Suggested Reading

2 Corinthians 7:1

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



Lined area for personal meditation notes, consisting of 18 horizontal lines within a decorative border.

LOVE

God's favorite word. I know it must be since God is love. All things good are of God, yet the devil wants us to believe opposite of that. True love is truth of God. Living God's word, living on the path he has for each of us, and living upright in obedience with His will. It is true that all you need is love when you realize that love is God and God is love.



Suggested Reading

1 John 4:8

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



Lined area for personal meditation notes, consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

TRUST

Seems impossible to have for people, but trusting in the Lord is always a worthy task. You might find yourself in a lack of trust in God, but always know that however bad life seems, in all things God works for the good of those who love Him.



Suggested Reading

Proverbs 3:5-6

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



Lined area for personal meditation notes, consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

DEPENDENCE

We depend solely on God for anything to work right in life. It is through God that all things are possible, and without Him that nothing can exist. To have more possibilities in life, we must have more of God in us.



Suggested Reading

Psalms 62:7

PERSONAL MEDITATION:



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How To Be A Disciple
A BONUS MINI-BOOK:



INTRODUCTION

We've all heard of the 12 Biblical disciples (apostles) of Jesus. We all know that they were all humans just as we are. What we don't always know is how to be a disciple God would approve of.

In this mini-book I will discuss not only what a disciple is, but how we, as followers of Christ, can become better disciples for Him.

In Part One, I will discuss the definition of a disciple. What it is to be one, and how being a disciple of Christ is far more demanding than being a disciple of anyone or anything else. In Part Two, I will discuss forgiveness. Not only how it applies to being a disciple, but also how it's required of us to *be* forgiving. In Part Three, I will discuss what I call "spiritual cleansing." The cleansing that is needed for what I describe in the Fourth Part, which is spiritual growth. Pretty simple to know what I'm talking about, but doing it is a whole different thing. In Part Five, I will explain how hope is not only necessary, but required by God to be a good disciple. In Part Six, I will talk about how trust is one of the most important overlooked

qualities we need to have for God to be the way He wants us. And finally, in Part Seven, I will talk about the one thing we all lack: patience.

Of course to be a good disciple, it takes a whole lot more than just reading a book, it demands studying God's Word with diligence, helping others where God calls us to, and most importantly: *LIVING OUR LIVES THE WAY HE COMMANDS!*

PART ONE

DEFINITION OF A DISCIPLE

1

Let's start by reading a verse from John:

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

-John 13:35 NIV

When Jesus is speaking about how to be recognized as His disciples, it's a no-brainer that He had to include love. By loving one another you are acting in a way which pleases God. But this also makes it a commandment; that to be recognized as a disciple of Christ, you **MUST** love one another.

But what is a disciple? A disciple is defined as one who studies a discipline. So to be a disciple of Christ, we not only have to have love, we also have to study under Christ. Learn his teachings, delve into their meanings, absorb His message, and then try to become as much like Him as possible.

Moses, The Pharisees, John the Baptist...they all had disciples, but the goal of this book is for us to become better disciples of Christ. Everyone who is a disciple of someone other than God is a disciple of one who is not perfect. I don't know about you, but

I'd rather be a disciple of someone who *is* perfect so that I know I'm not only learning from a pure source of wisdom, but that I'm also on my way to being purified.

PART TWO
GETTING FORGIVENESS

2

Let's start by reading a verse from Luke:

"...Forgive and you will be forgiven."

- Luke 6:37 NIV

It would be a nice life if we didn't have to have forgiveness. Imagine a world where everything is perfect...no one does wrong, and no one has any expenses. But the world isn't that way and because of the sin we humans commit, forgiveness is actually a blessing considering how much we really have made God hurt over the years.

If someone were to hit you, and then ask forgiveness while honestly feeling bad, they might have learned a lesson to not hit you anymore. However, if someone were to hit you continually while still asking forgiveness, how could you forgive them if they keep on hitting? In the same sense, we must ask God for forgiveness *only when we are truly sorry and will do our best to not commit that sin again*. But in order to have forgiveness, it is required of us to be forgiving to those who do sin against us. How can we expect God to forgive if we ourselves aren't forgiving?

PART THREE
SPIRITUAL CLEANSING

3

Let's start by reading a verse from Proverbs:

“Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?””

- Proverbs 20:9 NIV

Of course we all know the answer to that is JESUS! However, doesn't the Bible say that we are to try our best to become as much like Him as possible? After forgiving others so we can be forgiven, we need to be cleansed of our old ways. Not only to be renewed in our minds (Romans 12:2), but also to have anything which is the appearance of evil, removed (Ephesians 5:3).

It's important for us to take a shower every day, because dirt, among other things, makes ourselves unclean. In the same way, we should daily be cleansed of our sins, asking God with humble and contrite hearts, to forgive us as we are nowhere near perfect. This allows us the freedom to start the day off clean. It also makes it easier for us to catch any “slips” during the day where we fall because of “getting in the flesh.”

Think about it this way: if you don't have any sin on when you wake up, then one splash of muddy sin will stand out unlike

if you were already covered with it. Plus it makes us have more freedom to worship God in our lives the way that pleases him, with “...*a broken and contrite heart.*” -Psalms 51:17 NIV

PART FOUR
GROWING

4

Let's start by reading a verse from 2 Peter:

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....”

- 2 Peter 3:18 NIV

Funny how knowledge comes after grace. Remember that “...it is by grace you have been saved...” (Ephesians 2:8 NIV). What I'm getting at here is that in order for us to have the kind of spiritual growth we desire, we must first acknowledge the fact that Christ gave us His grace to save us. It's because of Jesus that we even have the ability to be alive this very moment!

Now, onto the tougher part...the knowledge of Christ. How can we grow to have His infinite knowledge? In this life we can't. Our brains would probably explode if any of us even had a fraction of His true knowledge. But we can have what He has allowed, which is knowledge offered divinely through the scriptures, and revelation knowledge (where God reveals to us somewhat like epiphanies).

PART FIVE

HOPE

Let's start by reading a verse from Jeremiah:

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.”*

-Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Obviously God IS in love with us! We might not always know where He wants us to go, or what He wants us to do, but we can rest assured knowing that His plans for us always include divine hope. God doesn't want us believing the lies of the enemy, or anything that would keep us from growing on the path He has for us. God wants us to thrive in this life, not just in Heaven. He has plans to prosper us and to not harm us. But in order for us to have this, we must TRUST in Him.

PART SIX

TRUST

6

Let's start by reading a verse from 2 Samuel:

“O Sovereign Lord, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.”

- 2 Samuel 7:28 NIV

We have to start off first by acknowledging that God is trustworthy. Anything He says comes into existence, which means anything He says has to be true. God can't lie. Then we can move onto learning how to trust Him.

In order to trust God, I believe you have to go through some struggles. That's not to say that someone couldn't be born just naturally trusting Him, I just believe that God allows us to strengthen our trust in Him through trials and tribulations. This is why we go through stuff...to learn *how* to trust Him.

PART SEVEN

PATIENCE

Let's start by reading a verse from Colossians:

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

- Colossians 3:12 NIV

Let's start by acknowledging that we ARE God's chosen people. Secondly, acknowledging that He has made us holy and has loved us dearly. Then, let us conform to the design which He has made us to which is to have “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” After this, know that we are alive. Lastly, knowing that if we are in fact alive, it's because He still has plans for us. If He still has plans for us, then isn't it necessary to remain patient, knowing that the Almighty has something in store for each and every one of us? By His Spirit we are alive!