



YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL THANK YOU

PART 1: WHAT GUIDES & FUELS SELF-CONTROL?

INTRODUCTION

As you think about spiritual attributes the one that is most foundational to all the others is self-control. Without self-control we can't fulfill the purpose God has for our life. But self-control is a learned skill. And it starts with resisting the temptation to put yourself first.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:22-23

Matthew 22:36-40

Colossians 3:23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Thomas Merton wrote, "People May spend their whole lives climbing the ladder of success only to find, once they reach the top, that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall." What "wall" is your ladder currently leaning against?
2. The first job of self-control is resisting the temptation to put yourself first. When is it easiest for you to resist this temptation? When is it most difficult for you?
3. According to Jesus in Matthew 22:36-40, what purpose should be driving your life and your self-control?
4. Pastor Will taught that self-control is about surrendering to God's purposes for you. His primary purpose for you is to **love him** and to **love others** (Matt. 22:36-40). What can you do this week to surrender to his primary purpose for your life?
5. Pastor Will said that everything you do has spiritual significance. Do you view your marriage, your body, your career, your friendships, your hobbies, your free time, etc. through this lens?
6. Read Colossians 3:23. What does this verse say about the significance of everything you do? What do you need to readjust your approach to in order to work at it for the Lord and his purposes?

MOVING FORWARD

Application Prayer: Jesus, I commit to let loving you and others be the purpose that drives everything I do. Please forgive me, and be my leader.