

The purpose of spiritual discipline is the restoration of the person who has fallen. This includes that person's spiritual relationship with God. It may also include a restoration to Christian service. Discipline always deals with the heart issues— (our inner spiritual man).

Must go below surface issues of how we look and act toward others. It must touch and deal with our inner emotions and how we truly feel. It must deal with how we relate and react to God, not man.

The passage of "time" is not enough to indicate restoration. There must be a change and restoration to our inner man. If we are truly repentant and open to discipline, we will be open and accountable in the following areas of our lives:

- Our thought life
- Our moral behavior
- Our relationships and attitudes toward:
  - God
  - Wife
  - Family
  - Church leaders
  - Our work
- Our emotional lives:
  - Lack of anger
  - Lack of bitterness
  - A spirit of cooperation with those who are working with him/her
  - Lack of pride
  - A lack of the effort to control family or those doing the restoration work

We must, in a spirit of brokenness, humility and cooperation, share with each of the persons we have offended by our behavior.

Examples would include:

Being willing to confess and seek forgiveness from: wife, children, God and any others.

Being willing to be open and honest with each of the above groups.

Indications of a lack of repentance include:

Bitterness / Anger

Hostility

Sulking

Silence

Uncooperative attitude

The indicator of when to "restore" to service should be based on the individual's reaction to these "heart" issues. There should be a complete spirit of openness, cooperation, honesty, brokenness and humility.