What is a Healthy Church Member? Study Guide – Mark 7- Seeks Discipline

Questions on 2 Corinthians 3:18

1.	The strange language of possessing an "unveiled face" is made clear by examining the surrounding context. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-17, which is Paul's commentary on the events of Exodus 34:29-35.		
	a. Why did Moses have to cover his face with a veil?		
	b. Christians have had this veil removed. What does this mean? How is this possible?		
2.	The phrase that Paul uses to describe Christian growth in this passage is "being transformed from one degree of glory to another." What does this picture show us about the nature of Christian growth?		
3.	According to verse 18, how does this transformation take place?		
4.	The end of verse 18 reveals who is ultimately responsible for this transformation? How should we respond to this reality?		

Mark 7: A Healthy Church Member Seeks Discipline

1.	Review pages 74-75. Discipline often has a negative connotation. How does Pastor Thabiti describe discipline in the church and how does this change the normal perspective of it?
2.	On pages 75-76, what are the two kinds of discipline described for the life of a healthy church member and how are they different?
Qu	estions to Apply the Truths Learned
1.	Suppose someone said to you, "I don't need to be a church member to be a good Christian. Why go through all the trouble?" After reading the chapter, how might you graciously explain to them the importance and benefit of church membership?

2.	On pages 68-70, Pastor Thabiti offers some examples of what a committed member looks like. Choose two you want to grow in and explain why and how.
3.	On pages 73-74, Pastor Thabiti paints the picture of why discipline in life is important. How does a healthy view of discipline encourage you to seek discipline?
4.	On pages 77-81 Pastor Thabiti offers ways we can joyfully seek discipline. Pick two you want to grow in and explain why and how.

What is a Healthy Church Member? Study Guide – Mark 8- Growing Disciple

1. In what ways do you feel you've actually grown as a Christian? In what ways has growth been

Questions on What is a Healthy Church Member?

lacking?

Mark 8: A Healthy Church Member is a Growing Disciple

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2.	Thabiti suggests that it is all too easy to fool ourselves into believing ourselves more in our faith than we really are. Using the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector uke 18, he highlights three wrong ways of thinking about growth in godliness (pp. 86-88). Brize them in own words. Have you seen evidence of any of these ways of thinking in your e?	
	a.	"The performance trap"
	b.	"Judging by the wrong standards"
	C.	"Depending on personal strength or effort in spiritual growth"
3.		growth in godliness is not ultimately measured by external or superficial standards, there ctical steps we can take to facilitate growth. Pastor Thabiti lists four such steps in pages
	a.	"Abide in Christ" – Practically speaking, what does it mean to abide in Christ (cf. John 15)?

b.	"Use the ordinary means of grace" – Thabiti lists "the study of the Word of God, participation in the ordinances of baptism and communion along with the gathered church, and prayer" (p. 90). Recall specific moments when God used one or more of these simple means to grow you in Christlikeness.
C.	"Participate in the local church" – In what ways has your participation in the local church fostered your growth as a Christian? Or on the other hand, how might the lack of participation in the church hinder one's growth as a Christian?
d.	"Look to Jesus' coming" – Thabiti writes "Our yearning to be with Jesus and to see Jesus is intended to make us more like Jesus in holiness." Why is this true?

Questions to Apply the Truths Learned

- 1. Take a personal retreat this week to focus on abiding in Christ. It could be an hour, or it could be a day, as your schedule permits. Spend time in God's Word (perhaps focusing on John 15:1-7; Luke 18:9-14) and prayer. Ask for the Lord to show you how he desires you to grow?
- 2. Ask a trusted friend to share how they've observed you grow in Christlikeness. Welcome their suggestions on where you might be able to grow more.
- 3. Choose a hero of the faith to learn from. This might be a saint long since entered into glory whom you can only access by biography (Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, David Brainerd, Ann Judson, Charles Spurgeon), or it might be an older brother or sister in the church. What part of their godly character would you like to grow in?