#### Lent: 2017: The Journey Inward

The People and Clergy of Saint Bart's Episcopal Church, New York City

#### Session 5

# The Spiritual Discipline of Study

Remind me again... Why are we doing this?

"The purpose of the Spiritual Disciplines is the total transformation of the person...

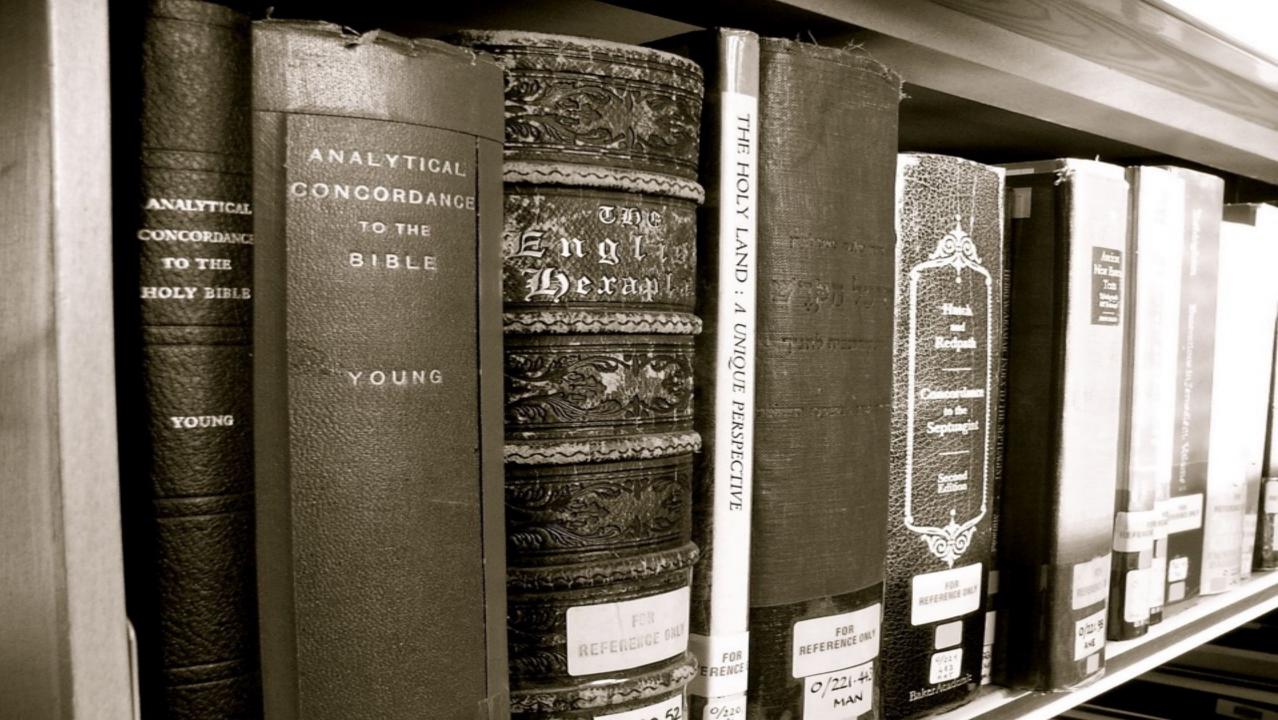
It aims at replacing old destructive habits of thought with new life-giving habits."

Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline



"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just...

# ...whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

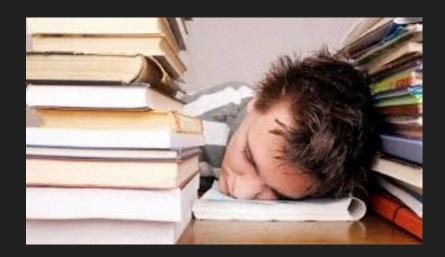


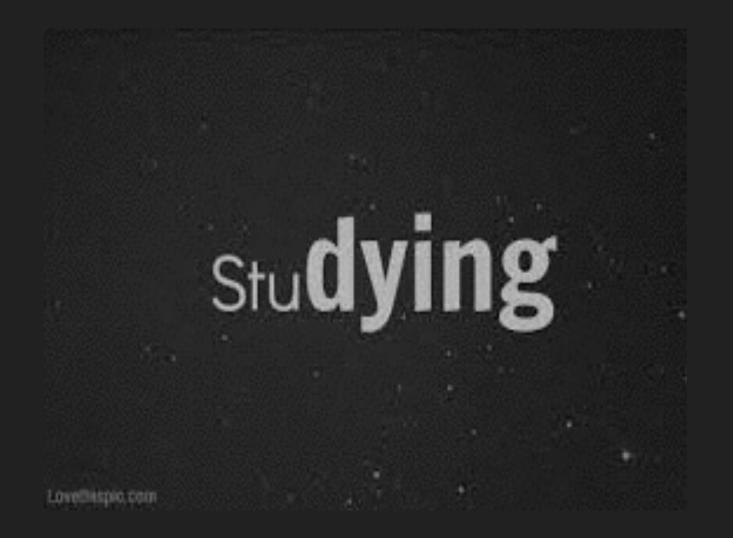
... if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Phil. 4:8

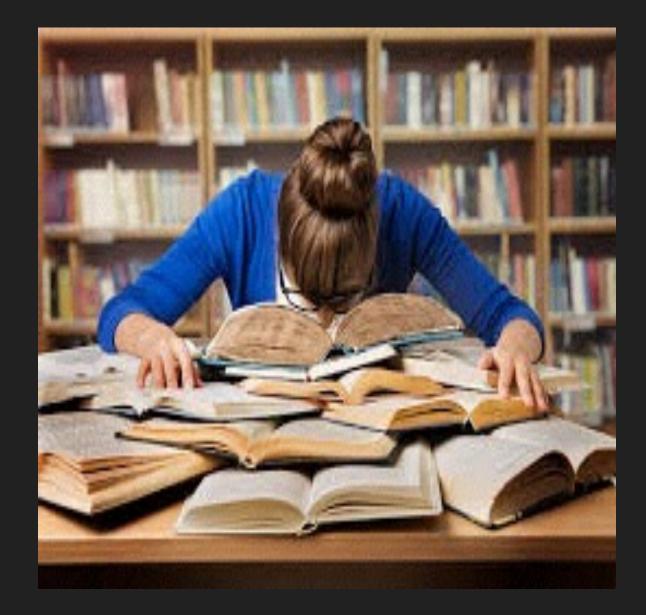
The discipline of study is the primary vehicle to bring us to think about these things. Richard J. Foster



# What keeps us from study?









#### **STUDY in the Bible**

The Old Testament instructs that the laws be written on gates and doorposts...

#### **STUDY in the Bible**

#### and bound to wrists...

#### **STUDY in the Bible**

#### ...so that they shall be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 11:18







#### Where do I begin?



The Bible: The Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, & Numbers) • The Gospels The Epistles

Other books to consider...
The Confessions of Saint Augustine

 The Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis

## The Journal of John Wesley

 A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life by William Law

### • The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

• Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

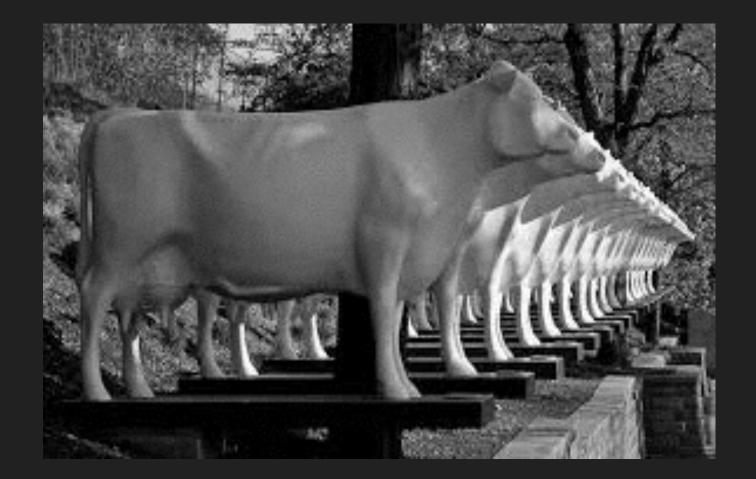


Four Steps...

## Four Steps:

## 1. Repetition

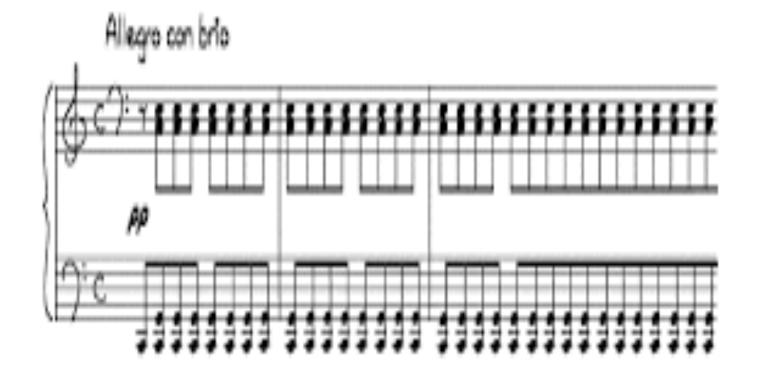
Repetition is the mother of all learning. Repetition is the mother of all learning.





## Four Steps:

## 2. Concentration



HOW TO ANNOY A PIANIST

HTTP://EUGE.CA

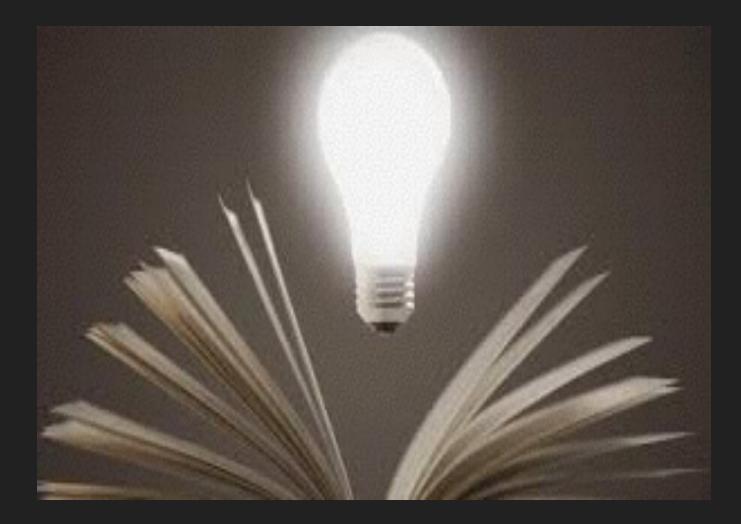






### Four Steps:

### 3. Comprehension



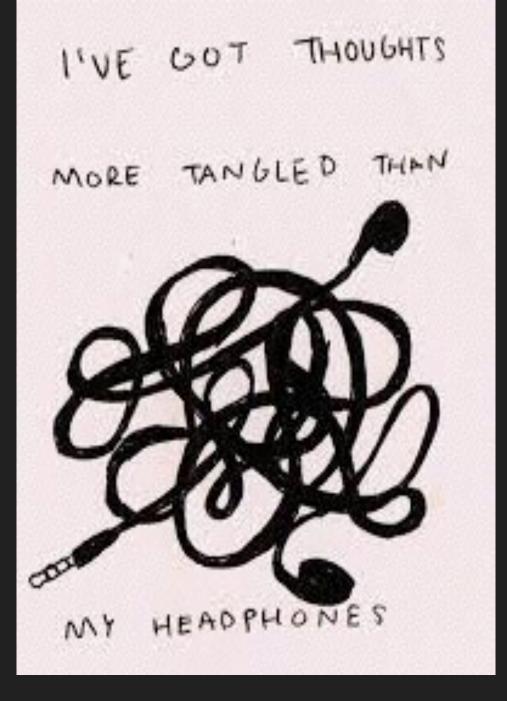
### Four Steps:

### 4. Reflection



#### What study can be...





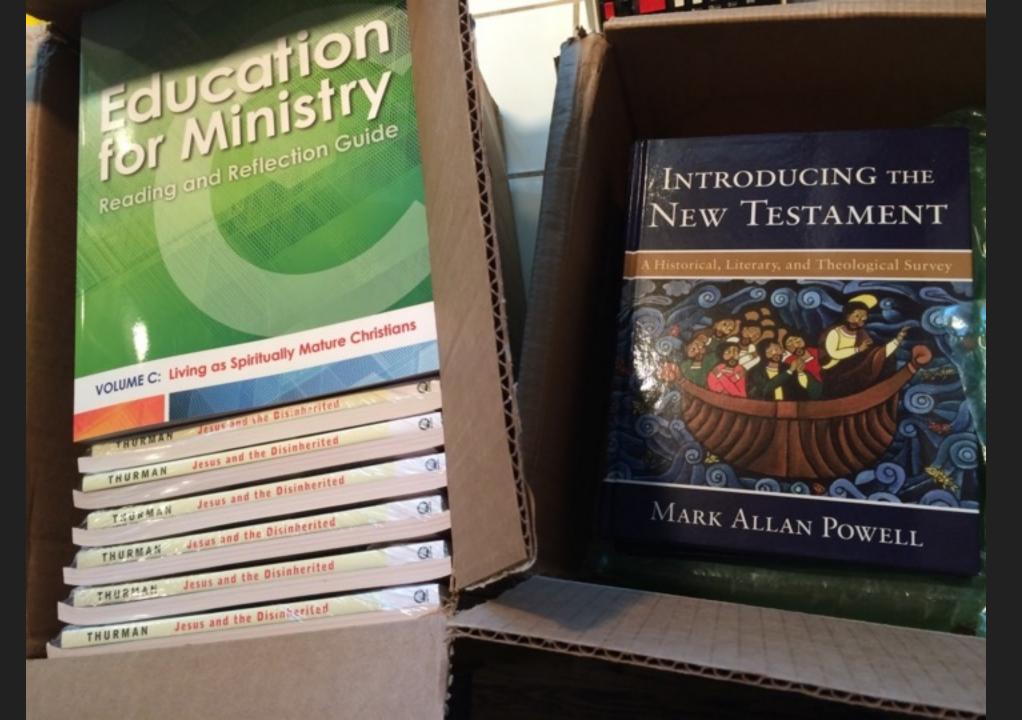
# Study, like fasting or prayer, is a bridge...



...that helps take you across the things that are between you and God.



### So, what if I want to get serious about study?



### Education for Ministry (EFM) Bible Study

- Schools for Ministry
- Seminary

# "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work...

### Prayer is the greater work."

**Oswald Chambers** 

"Prayer catapults us onto the frontier of the spiritual life.

It is original research in unexplored territory."

Richard Foster, Celebration of Discipline