Thought I would share the 3 D's that is a framework I seek to build my life upon.

 1. Determination - To resolve and purpose in one's mind and heart; To give definite aim or direction to; To settle conclusively one's desires and goals thus ending indecisiveness.

2. Diligence - To choose that which is highly esteemed by God and to be constant or consistent in one's efforts and exertion of energy to accomplish God's desired virtue or pleasure; perseverance (bull dog tenacity)

 3. Discipline - Training or instruction that develops a spiritual control of self, as well as developing Christlike character, orderliness, and efficiency.

 Definition: Training - Guiding the growth or development of; guiding the moral and spiritual maturing of; To drill or undergo consistent rigorous exercise or practice of instruction received.

 How serious are we about becoming living epistles, known and read of all men, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God?

 II Cor.3 teaches us about the ministration of the Spirit in our lives and sets forth what should be two supreme goals in every believer's life. The first goal of becoming a living epistle is presented by God as being achievable but only by and "with the Spirit of the living God". Does not the word "with" imply partnership? It means being together or in the company of. May it be clearly understood that our God fully intends that we be together or in the company of the Spirit of God and of Christ all our waking hours. Without this relationship, there is no partnership and thus no hope of achieving God's goal of enabling us to become living epistles known and read of all men.

 Though this is a great goal that our Father desires to achieve in us, it is not his greatest goal.

 II Cor.3:18 says, But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, ARE CHANGED into the SAME IMAGE from glory to glory, even as BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.

 Do we not find the greatest desire and goal of our Father in this verse? Does not Rm.8:29 say that God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of his Son?

 Do we comprehend the fact that only through the ministry of the Spirit in our lives will we be changed into the "same image" as that of God's Son?

 To achieve both of these divine goals set forth in this glorious chapter, we MUST determine or purpose in our minds and hearts to be together in company with our Lord through his Spirit as consistently as we allow God to make it possible. We do this by learning how to walk in the Spirit.

 It is not enough to simply determine or purpose in our hearts to do this but we MUST be diligent in pursuit of God's goals until they become do or die goals in our lives.

 As noble as the virtuous undertaking of determination and diligence is, failure yet looms on the horizon without discipline.

 There must be detailed instruction that develops spiritual control of one's mind and heart, to include control of all thoughts and affections, enabling the development of Christlike character. There MUST be intense and rigorous training to employ a highly skilled use or practice of biblical principles. Only here will there be a proper development of our mental, moral, and spiritual faculties that will transform the believer into the "same image from glory to glory, even as by the SPIRIT OF THE LORD."

 God teaches us in Heb.5:13-14 the importance of disciplined training that will effect his goals in our life in these words, "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of USE (habitual practice) have their senses EXERCISED to discern both good and evil."

 Discipline or rigorous training is written all over these verses! Can we not hear the voice of our drill sergeant?

 God knows that we will be incapable of becoming living epistles that bear the exact same image as his beloved Son if we fail to become highly skilful in the use or habitual practice of the word of righteousness as instructed to us by his Spirit. This intense and rigorous employment of the word of righteousness is called "exercise" in verse 14. The Greek word behind this word was common in the Greek olympics and meant to practice naked. Every weight was laid aside for rigorous intensive training in order to achieve their goal and win the gold!

 Note that the goal of this disciplined training, called "exercise", is that through the skilful use of the word of righteousness, we might train our five senses to discern or make biblical and spiritual judgment calls as to what is good and what is evil. As we become highly skilled in the habitual use of the word of righteousness, our drill sergeant, the Holy Spirit, will continually instruct us and empower us to make proper judgment calls or decisions as to what we should allow our eyes to see, our ears to hear, our tongues to taste, our flesh to touch, and our nose to smell. With Holy Ghost imparted discernment and good judgment, proper spiritual judgment calls converts into right decisions and righteous living which produces holy living, which allows us to be "changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

 It is here that we are enabled by God's grace to become living epistles, known and read of all men. It is here that we will learn to disdain the constant seeking of our own pleasure and will constantly desire and seek to bring our Abba, Father his well deserved pleasure by partnering with and dwelling together with the Spirit of Christ within us, which truly is Christ in us, the hope of glory.

 If we desire to truly glorify the Father with our lives rather than our lips, we MUST choose to bring him his greatest pleasure all our waking hours by our determination, diligence, and discipline to become living epistles, and this by bearing the same glorious image as his Son.