Tips and Techniques
101 Techniques in Student Discipline

Scripture Verse: "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and imidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*" 2 Timothy 1:7, NLT)

Over the course of my 49 years tenure in education as a teacher, administrator, education professor and school psychologist, I have had to deal with countless classroom discipline situations. I would like to share a collection of techniques that can be used in the management of classroom behavior. Each suggestion, when implemented correctly, can have a major effect upon an individual or a particular class. As you read over each item, allow the Holy Spirit to quicken you as to which ones would be best for your particular situation.

Discipline is defined as "moving students to predetermined goals." The final objective is to install self-discipline. Punishment is considered as anything that results in a reduction of behavior. Reinforcers are those events and/or actions that strengthen behavior.

1. Have a few rational rules. Be certain they are clear to students.
2. Be consistent in enforcing rules.
3. Do not punish a group for the actions of one student, or of a few students.
4. Be alert to the possibilities for disruptive conduct. If a youngster seems to be behaving differently from normal, try to act before a real problem develops.
5. Reward positive behavior.
6. Never issue an ultimatum unless you are prepared to carry it out.
7. Never be afraid to apologize to a student if you punish him or her unjustly.
8. Make sure that directions for homework, activities, and classroom events are clear to students. Often management problems arise when instructions regarding classroom routine are unclear.
9. Give as much individual attention as possible.
10. Change seating arrangement.
11. Separate troublemakers from companions.
12. Keep the room tidy, neat and clean, discard unused materials and supplies.
13. Provide for the physical comfort of the students.
14. Keep voice subdued and controlled; do not yell; speak in lower tones.