

# Lesson 1

## DISCIPLESHIP

### INTRODUCTION:

Purposes of study:

- To understand the definition of a disciple
- To understand the call of discipleship
- To know the keys to growing as a disciple
- To be fruitful as a disciple
- To understand the practical principles of Discipleship

### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLESHIP
  - A. Definition
  - B. The Call of Discipleship
  - C. The conditions of Discipleship
  
- II. BENEFITS OF HAVING A DISCIPLING MINISTRY
  - A. The value Jesus placed upon Discipling
  - B. The value of Discipling the Disciple
  - C. The value of Discipling to the Discipler
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- III. THE PHASES AND GOALS OF DISCIPLING
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- IV. BASIC KNOWLEDGE FOR DISCIPLE
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  - B. Understanding Repentance
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  - D. Understanding a believer's position and privileges in Christ
  
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  - B. Basic Principles in Discipling
  - C. Meeting with your Disciple
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## I. INTRODUCTION TO DISCIPLESHIP

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."* **Matthew 28:19-20**

### A. *Definition*

1. The Greek word for disciple is '*mathetes*'

It occurs about 264 times in the Gospels and Acts.

It means: '*One who learns **instruction** from another*'.

- a) A disciple is likened to an **apprentice** who learns from his master tradesman.
- b) He can also be likened to an **imitator** of his teacher.

2. Key descriptions of a disciple

- a) A disciple is one whose life is centred upon the **word** of God.

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples."*

**John 8:31**  
**Matthew 4:4**

- b) A disciple is one who is totally **committed** to the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

**Mark 8:34**

- (i) He committed to his master that he would lay down his life.
- (ii) Ambition
- (iii) Personal desires
- (iv) Will

3. A disciple is one who has a close **relationship** with his master.

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”* **John 15:4-5**

- a) He is so close to his master that he bears forth the same **fruit**.
- b) He has the privilege of having the Lord giving more explanation and **revelation**.

*He did not say anything to them without using parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.* **Mark 4:34**

4. A disciple should have the **love** of God for others.

*“A new command I give you : Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* **John 13:34**

This is not human love or romantic love but the “*agape*” - God kind of love. Paul lists the characteristics of agape love in **1 Corinthians 13:**

## **B. *The call of discipleship***

1. The disciples were **called** by the Lord Jesus:

*As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. V21 Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them.* **Matthew 4:18, 21**

2. It is a great **privilege** to be called by Jesus

3. The Call is a call to **obedience**

*“Why do you call me, ‘Lord Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”* **Luke 6:46**

- a) Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:

*“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* **Mark 8:34**

- b) But Samuel replied:

*“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?”*  
**1 Samuel 15:22**

4. The Call is a call to serve

- a) Jesus-the master set the example for us in service:

*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*  
**Mark 10:45**  
**John 13:5**

5. The Call is a call to suffer.

- a) The early disciples went through times of suffering:

*For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.*  
**Philippians 1:29**

- b) The Lord Jesus has already set the example for us:

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*  
**1 Peter 2:21**

### C. *The conditions for discipleship*

1. Faithfulness

- a) God looks for faithfulness in his followers:

*“His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”*  
**Matthew 25:21**

- b) Jesus in his parables about the sower tells us that it’s possible for a believer to fall away:

*But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.*  
**Mark 4:17**

- c) Moses and Jesus were spoken of as faithful ones:

*Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future. But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.*  
**Hebrew 3:5-6**

2. Putting God **first** in one's life

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*  
**Matthew 6:34**

3. Having a **spiritual** hunger

- a) Jesus promised us that there are blessings for those with spiritual hunger:

*"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled"*  
**Matthew 5:6**

- b) There's the craving of milk. Likewise, Peter exhorts believers to have such a spiritual craving:

*"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."*  
**1 Peter 2:2-3**

4. Having a submissive and **teachable** Spirit

- a) As mentioned earlier, a disciple is a learner and if one does not have a submissive or teachable spirit, it will be very difficult for such a one to grow in the Lord.

*"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority."*  
**1 Peter 2:13**

- b) He must be open to learn from others. A wise man will learn from others:

*"Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance."*  
**Proverbs 1:5**

## **II. BENEFITS OF HAVING A DISCIPLING MINISTRY**

### ***A. The value Jesus placed upon discipling***

Jesus put the highest **priority** on discipling. "Jesus invested so much more time with His disciples than with others, we must conclude He was following a carefully thought-out strategy." (R. Coleman, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*.)

This was the common thread in all His ministry. Jesus' method was men, whom He trained to continue His work. We see Jesus passing on that great responsibility to His trainees in **Matthew 28:19-20**:

Make disciples! Teach them! Pour your life into a few individuals. This is exactly how Paul trained Timothy:

*"And the things which you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."* **2 Timothy 2: 2**

### ***B. The value of discipling to the disciple***

1. Discipleship increases the rate of a disciple's spiritual **growth**.
2. Discipleship stops wrong **behavior** patterns and encourages good ones. Just as a good coach will instruct a student in art or in a sport.

Discipling protects the disciple against the **attacks** of the enemy.

Discipling provides the disciple with a personal **friend**.

Discipling provides **counsel**. Wisdom and insight can be given by a mature person in the Lord.

### ***C. The value of discipling to the discipler***

Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given unto you . . . in good measure." (**Luke 6:38**). Here are some of the compensations one receives for the time, care, prayer, and effort invested in discipling another person in Christ:

1. Discipleship brings **joy** to the discipler.

The Apostle John (**3 John 4**) said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking the truth."

The Apostle Paul knew this joy: "*For what is our hope, our joy or crown in which we glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy*"

**1 Thessalonians 2:19-20**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9**

- 2 Discipling **purifies** the life of the discipler.
- 3 A discipler must be sure that his **example** is one that may be followed.  
  
He may be surprised at what he learns about himself when he concentrates on someone else. One matures as he ministers.
- 4 Discipling develops **ministerial** skills. One receives practice in teaching, counseling and guiding someone else. These activities increase one's leadership skills.
- 5 Discipling provides an **outlet** for the discipler. A discipling Christian can no longer be a stagnant believer when he is passing on what he knows. This requires him to stay fresh in the Spirit.

**D. *The value of discipling to the Church***

1. Discipling conserves the **evangelism** efforts, put forth by the Body of Christ.
2. It develops **Godly** leaders for the Church. Those who have been disciplined can rise to new levels of usefulness. In this way, God is able to continue the work into future generations.

**E. *The value of discipling to the World***

The "*Great Commission*" requires us to think about the whole world. Every Christian must ask, "*What am I doing that can ultimately have an impact on the world?*" This sinful world can only be changed - one person at a time. Working with human souls is the highest form of labor one can engage in for humanity.



### III. THE PHASES AND GOALS OF DISCIPLING

There are three phases of discipling:

#### A. *Phases*

1. Phase I: **Evangelizing** People.

**II Peter 3:9** says, "God is not willing that any should perish."

**John 3:16** reminds us that "God so loved the world ... that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish."

So conversion, a real born again experience is the first goal in discipling, but it is not an end in itself. It serves to introduce the next phase.

2. Phase II: **Edifying** Converts.

Paul and Barnabas set the example by becoming involved in edifying the converts. We see them "*strengthening the disciples, encouraging them in the faith.*"

Jesus said (**Matthew 28:20**), "*Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.*" Paul spoke of his "*dear children*" for whom he was "*in the pains of childbirth until Christ would be formed in them.*" (**Galatians 4:19**) Spiritual maturity is the intermediate step to the final phase of discipleship.

3. Phase III: **Equipping** believers.

Salvation and maturity are not enough. God desires that we be spiritual reproducers. Jesus made this clear in **John 15:16** and **John 20:21**. "*As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*"

We might illustrate it by saying that Phase I is the birth of a child, Phase II is like rearing the child to maturity, and Phase III is when the offspring has gained enough maturity to bear children and to raise them.

## B. GOALS

Our goals are to bring our disciples to maturity, and to see them become multipliers by reproducing themselves in a third spiritual generation.

### 1. GOAL 1: People who have become mature

The Apostle Paul had a goal of bringing converts to maturity. He said, *"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."* **Colossians 1:28**

The word "*perfect*" in the New Testament means "*complete*" from the Greek, "*teleios*," and refers to being fully equipped, provided, mature.

In **Ephesians 4:13**, it is translated "*mature*." "*...Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*"

What are the attributes of a mature Christian?

#### a) Christ-like in Character.

**Galatians 5:22-23** gives to us many qualities displayed by Christ. We call them "*the fruit of the Spirit*." A Christian who abides in the "*true vine*" will also display these qualities. (**John 15:5**).

#### b) Dependent on Christ.

In the spiritual realm, maturity is seen as we move from independence from God, toward dependence on God.

Abraham learned to trust God more and more (**Romans 4:20**) as he matured in his walk.

Paul also reports on his growth in Christ in **Galatians 2:20**: "*I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me.*"

Paul yearned to be Christ-like in **Philippians 3: 10**: "*I want to know Christ, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.*"

Increasing dependence upon Christ is a mark of a mature Christian.

c) **Consistent** In Their Walk.

Jesus sets the example, "*I always do the things that are pleasing to Him*" **John 8:29**. Consistency in our Christian walk relates to an overall direction of visible growth in our spiritual life in spite of periodic stumbling.

d) Clear **Understanding** of the Word.

As we mature, we come to a settled view of the truth, and we are able to discern **false teaching** (**Acts 20:29-31; 2 Corinthians 2: 13-15; Col. 2:8**). As our disciples mature, they are "*no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by trickery of men, by craftiness and deceitful scheming*" **Ephesians 4:14**.

The Apostle John gives us a very strong verse, (**1 John 2:27**). "*As for you, the anointing you have received from Him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in Him.*"

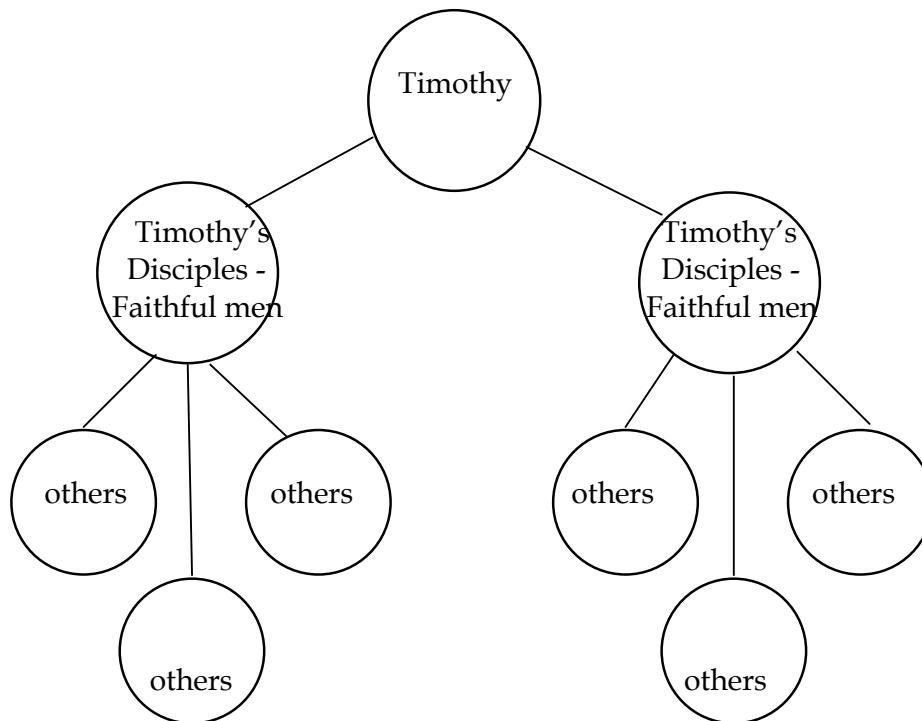
John is NOT saying it is unnecessary to have a teachable spirit. He is saying these believers have received a special anointing - a built-in sensor to recognize heresy without anyone having to point it out.

2. GOAL II: People who become **multipliers**

A "*multiplier*" is a person who reproduces himself in someone who, in turn, can **reproduce** himself in a third spiritual generation.

Paul said to Timothy, his spiritual son, "*You, then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be able to teach others also.*" (**2 Timothy 2:2**)

Let us give some graphic examples of this:



In Acts, chapter 2, 3 and 4, we read that disciples were "*added to*" the Early Church. But in Chapter 6 it says that the number of disciples "*multiplied greatly.*" What was the basis of this explosive growth? The answer is: every new believer became a discipler and a trainer of someone else.

The secret of growth in the discipling ministry is in the fact that each reproducing generation doubles itself. This is multiplication rather than addition.

## IV. BASIC KNOWLEDGE FOR THE DISCIPLE

### A. *Understanding Sin*

1. Biblical Words for sin:
  - a) Hamartia: to miss the mark **Romans 6:23**
  - b) Anomia: Lawlessness or rebellion **2 Corinthians 6:14**

c) Marah: contentious or stubborn

2. Results of Sin

a) Sin **grieves** God.

Genesis 6:5-7

b) Sin brings **guilt**.

*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.*

Psalm 51:3-4

c) Sin **separates** man from God.

*Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*

Isaiah 59:1-2

d) Sin causes spiritual **blindness**.

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

e) Sin **corrupts**.

*To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.*

Titus 1:15

f) Sin causes spiritual **death**.

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Ephesians 2:1

g) Sin brings **judgment**.

*"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

Matthew 25:46

## B. Understanding Repentance

These are times when the person wants blessings of health and wealth but have not understood that he needs repentance as a believer.

### 1. Definition

- a) Greek word for repentance is "*metanoia*" which means a change of **course** or to have another **mind**.
- b) Repentance means that a believer must change his **thinking** and **actions**.
- c) Repentance involves the **emotion** and the **will**.

When David repented from his sin, there was a deep sense of remorse and regret.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.* **Psalm 51:9**

## C. Understanding the blood of Jesus

### 1. The Power of the **Blood of Jesus**

- a) The blood of Jesus gives us **redemption** from the power of satan. *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.* **Ephesians 1:7**

- b) We have the **forgiveness** of sin.

*The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

**1 John 1:9**

- c) We have **justification** which means that are made **righteous** as if we have never sinned.

*Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!* **Romans 5:9**

- d) We can enter God's **presence** in time of need.

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.* **Hebrew 10:19-20**

- e) We have **victory**.

*They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.* **Revelation 12:11**

**D. Understanding a believer's position and privileges in Christ**

1. A believer is a child of God and is **reconciled** to God.

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* **John 1:12**  
**Romans 5:10**

2. A believer becomes the **temple** of the Holy Spirit.

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?* **1 Corinthians 6:19**

3. A believer becomes a **co-heir** with Christ.

*Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.* **Romans 8:17**

4. A believer has been raised up to **sit** with Christ in the heavenly places.

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.* **Ephesians 2:6**

5. A believer is **more than a conqueror** through Christ.

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* **Romans 8:37**

6. A believer has overcome the **world**.

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.* **1 John 5:4-5**

7. A believer is an **ambassador** of Christ.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

#### **IV. KEYS TO GROWTH AS A DISCIPLE**

##### ***A. Discipline yourself to set apart time to be with the Lord***

1. Jesus set aside time to be with the **Father**. *Mark 1:35*
2. Have a definite **time** to meet with God. *Daniel 6:10*
3. A time with God consists of **worship**, the **word** of God and **prayer**.

**Psalm 33:1; Psalm 119:105; Romans 12:12**

##### ***B. The disciple and praise and worship***

Praise is thanking Him for what He has **done** for us.

Worship is adoring Him for who He **is** to us.

1. God is looking for true **worshippers**. **John 4:24**
2. God is enthroned on the **praise** of His people. **Psalm 22:3**
3. God is **worthy** to receive our praise and worship. **Revelations 5:9-14**
4. Praise and worship releases God's **power**. **2 Chronicles 20:12, 22**
5. Praise releases the **blessings** of God. **Psalm 67:5-7**

##### ***C. The disciple and the word***

1. Keys to Bible reading.
  - a) Pray for the **Holy Spirit** to reveal truths to you. **John 16:13-14**
  - b) **Meditate** on the word. **Joshua 1:8**



c) **Memorize** it so that it is in your heart.

2. Benefits of the Word of God

a) It makes us **wise**.

Psalm 119:98-104

b) It gives us **light**.

Psalm 119:130

c) It gives us **peace**.

Psalm 119:165

d) It **builds** us up.

Acts 20:32

e) It enables **faith**.

Romans 10:17

f) It is **useful for teaching** and **correction**.

2 Timothy 3:16

D. *The disciple and prayer*

1. **Jesus** set us the **example** in His prayer life.

Mark 1:35

2. What is Prayer?

Prayer is:

a) **Interceding** for others.

1 Timothy 2:1

b) **Asking** God for our needs.

Matthew 7:7-11

c) **Thanking** God for his blessings and answers

1 Thessalonians 5:18

d) **Listening** to God.

John 10:27

3. Keys to Effective praying:

a) Enter his presence with **thanksgiving**.

Psalm 100:4

b) Appealing to God's **Character**.

Genesis 18:25

c) Ask in **faith**.

Hebrews 11:6

d) Being **considerate** to your wife.

1 Peter 3:7

e) Ask according to **His will**.

1 John 5:14-15

- |    |                                                |                      |
|----|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| f) | Depend on the help of the <u>Holy Spirit</u> . | <b>Romans 8:26</b>   |
| g) | Avoid praying with <u>selfish</u> motives.     | <b>James 4:3</b>     |
| h) | Get rid of <u>unforgiveness</u> .              | <b>Matthew 11:25</b> |

## VI. THE DISCIPLE AND FRUITFULNESS

### A. *Three areas of fruitfulness*

1. The Lord desires that his followers produce the fruit of repentance.

*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*

**Matthew 3:8**

If one says that he has been born-again, he must produce the fruit of repentance. There must be a change in life-style.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

2. The Lord wants us to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

We cannot produce this in our own strength but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. He wants us to bear the fruit of good works.

*And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

**Colossians 1:10**

Yes, we are saved through faith and not by works. It is all by the grace of God (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). However the scriptures exhort us to produce good deeds.

*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

**James 2:14-17**

**B. Conditions to fruitfulness**

1. To be fruitful, we need to allow the Lord to **trim** off areas in our lives that are not spiritual.

*He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful*      **John 15:2**

2. To be fruitful, we need to **remain** in the Lord.

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him he will bear much fruit apart from me you can do nothing.*      **John 15:5**

3. To be fruitful, we need to live an uncompromising life and delight in his **WORD**.

*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*      **Psalms 1:1-3**

**C. Conclusion**

Bearing fruit glorifies the Lord and demonstrates that we are His disciples.

*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*      **John 15:8**

**VII. THE DISCIPLE: TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS**

*"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*      **1 Peter 1:6-7**

## A. *The disciple and temptation*

1. God never **tempts** anyone.

*When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.* **James 1:13**

2. Temptations come from **Satan** as he takes advantage of the evil desires in a person.

*But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.* **James 1:14**

3. Temptations come in **3 forms: 1 John 2:15-17**

- a) Lust of the **eyes**.

- b) Lust of the **flesh**.

- c) **Pride** of life.

4. Ways in which Satan tempts:

- a) Encouraging **disobedience**. **Genesis 3:1-7**

- b) Entering **sexual immorality**. **Genesis 39:7-10**

- c) Causing people to love **things** or people more than God.

*For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**Matthew 6:32-33**

- d) Causing people to love **money**.

*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

**1 Timothy 6:9-10**

- e) Causing people to **murmur** and **gossip**.

*And do not grumble, as some of them did-and were killed by the destroying angel.*

**1 Corinthians 10:10**

## 5. The Results of Temptation.

- a) If a disciple
- yields**
- to temptations he sins against the Lord.

Having temptation is not a sin but yielding to it is sin. In the end it leads to destruction.

*Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.* **James 1:15**

- b) If a disciple
- resists**
- the temptations:

- (i) The Lord is **glorified**.
- (ii) He grows **stronger** in faith and maturity.
- (iii) He becomes an **overcomer**.

## 6. Ways to handle temptation.

- a) By the
- word**
- of God.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "it is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"* **Matthew 4:1-4**

- b) Being
- watchful**
- and
- prayerful**
- .

*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the body is weak.* **Mark 14:38**

- c) By not giving Satan any
- opportunity**
- .

*And do not give the devil a foothold.* **Ephesians 4:27**

- d) By
- submitting**
- to God and
- resisting**
- the devil.

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* **James 4:7**

- e) By looking to
- Jesus**
- .

*Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.* **Hebrews 2:18**

**B. The disciple and trials**

1. The purpose of trials.

- a) To develop our **character**.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of our faith develops perseverance.*  
**James 1:2-3**

- b) To **humble** and **teach** us his ways.

*Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.*  
**Deuteronomy 8:2**

- c) To **refine** us.

*For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.*  
**Psalms 66:10**

- d) To **strengthen** our faith. **1 Peter 1:6-7**

- e) To enable us to **minister** more effectively.

*Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that one can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.*  
**2 Corinthians 1:4-5**

2. Ways to respond in times of trials.

- a) **Rejoice**.

*But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*  
**1 Peter 4:13**

- b) **Commit** yourself to the Lord.

*So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*  
**1 Peter 4:19**

## VIII. THE DISCIPLE AND THE WILL OF GOD

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures.*  
**Romans 12:1-2**

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
**Ephesians 2:10**

God has a plan for all his disciples:

*For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*  
**Ephesians 2:10**

God had a plan for Jeremiah even while he was in his mother's womb:

*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.*  
**Jeremiah 1:5**

God desires to guide his children specifically:

*Who, then, is the man that fears the Lord?  
He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.*  
**Psalm 25:12**

### **A. Conditions for knowing God's will**

1. The disciple must desire a **holy** living. **Romans 12:1-2**

2. The disciple must be **humble**.

*He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.* **Psalm 25:9**

3. The disciple must be willing to **trust** the Lord.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in our own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*  
**Proverbs 3:5-7**

**B. Ways in which God reveals His ways**

1. **Word** of God **Psalm 119:9-11, 105**

If we desire to know God's will we must spend time in His Word.

2. Still small **voice** of the Holy Spirit

*After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.*

**1 Kings 19:12**

3. **Counsel** of mature leaders

*The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*

**Proverbs 12:15**

4. **Audible** voice

*He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

**Acts 9:4-5**

5. **Dreams**

*But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

**Matthew 1:20-21**

6. **Visions**

*He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.*

**Acts 10:10**

7. **Prophecies**

*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*

**Acts 13:2**

8. **Circumstances**

We need to be careful about circumstances:



Jonah was running away from God's will when he went to the port. The circumstance was just right as there was a ship going to the opposite direction of God's instruction to him.

*But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.* **Jonah 1:3**

*Paul and Silas were in bad circumstances while imprisoned but they were in God's will.* **Acts 16:24**

### C. *Conclusion*

Key ways to confirm your guidance: be it a vision, prophecy, dream etc.

#### 1. The **peace** of God

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* **Philippians 4:6-7**

#### 2. The confirmation by mature **leaders**.

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.* **Hebrews 13:17**

#### 3. The **Word** of God.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.* **2 Timothy 3:16**

## **IX. PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

### A. *Selecting and challenging potential disciples*

The question is: How many people should I begin to disciple?

1. Jesus was concerned with **quality**, not quantity. *Waylon Moore*, in his book *New Testament Follow-up*, says,

*"A decision that our ministry will be intensive rather than extensive will change our whole life. Quality begets quantity. It takes vision to disciple a man to reach the mass. If you train one man, then you penetrate the multitudes."*

2. It is also important to understand your own **limitations**. Do not under-estimate what God can do through you, but avoid over-commitment to the point of great detriment to your family or your health.
3. Your disciples must be **God-given** people. Jesus declared, "*You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you . . .*" **John. 15:16**. He said to the Father, "*I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me.....*" (**John. 17:6**). He expresses the same thought in Verse 9.
4. Avoid the error of **hasty** selection. Jesus did not choose everyone who came to Him as one of its disciples. They were chosen with care.
5. The role of **prayer** in selecting disciples. When Jesus chose the special group of men to whom He would devote most of His time and attention, the Scripture says, "*One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them whom He also designated as apostles*" (**Luke 6:12-13**).
6. The **kind** of people Jesus Chose. His disciples were basically an average cross-section of the population, but He was looking for *hearts totally available to Him*. The disciple's potential, not the disciple's ability, was foremost in Jesus' mind.
7. **Gender** of the disciples. It would be very unwise to disciple people of the opposite sex unless that person is a son or daughter, a brother or sister in the family. Lead all others, for discipling, to a person of their own sex.
8. **Qualifying** your disciples.
  - a) A person must be a **Christian** in order to be discipled. Lead the person to Christ before you attempt it or choose one already converted.
  - b) A **teachable** attitude is essential. Your disciple must be willing and eager to submit to being taught.

- c) Your disciple must have a **heart** for God - a real determination to live his life more for God than for himself.
- d) He must be able to keep **time** commitments, mutually chosen.
- e) **Faithfulness**, must be a part of your disciple's commitment to the process. Paul told Timothy to entrust truth to *faithful* men (**2 Timothy 2:2**).

9. **Where** to find disciples

Your disciple could be a Christian who is:

- a) Someone you have **led** to Christ
- b) A new Christian at your **church**
- c) A **friend**
- d) Someone at your **job**
- e) A **neighbor**
- f) A **classmate**
- g) Someone who has come for **prayer** or **counseling**

10. How to **challenge** a potential disciple

Once you have determined God's choice for someone to disciple, do not wait to approach him about your willingness to do so. But you should observe the following suggestions:

First, be **enthusiastic** as you challenge him to be discipled.

Second, approach him at a **convenient** time.

Third, make sure your potential disciple **understands** what your proposal involves.

Fourth, don't minimize the **commitment** you will be requiring of him.

Fifth, be **prepared** before you approach him. *How* you challenge the individual will affect your disciple's response.

**B. Basic Principles in Discipling**

Five Principles for interacting with your disciple

1. The Discipler is to **Love** the Disciple.

Here are ways of showing your personal interest and concern:

- Be available to your disciple.
- Pray for your disciple.
- Telephone your disciple.
- Spend time with your disciple.
- Listen to your disciple's needs.
- Affirm your disciple.
- Confront the disciple when there is sin.
- Give your disciple appropriate gifts.
- Ask God for wisdom in meeting your disciple's need.
- Be faithful to prepare for your times with your disciple.

2. The Discippler Must Minister to the **Total** Person. (Luke 2:52)
  - a) **Physical** Area - Help him develop Christian habits of demeanor, dress, etc.
  - b) **Social** Area - Christ-like conduct, conversation, friendships, activities.
  - c) **Mental** Area - Spiritual reading, watching and listening habits that uplift. A positive, faith believing attitude toward circumstances.
3. The Discippler Must Spend **Time** with the Disciple.

Our Savior "*appointed twelve, that they might be with Him:* (Mark 3:14). The phrase "with Him" is repeated in **Mark 3:7, Mark 8:27, John 3:22, John 6:3, and Acts 4:13.**

Benefits your disciple will gain from being with you:

- a) He will see you in different **situations**.
- b) A **unity** will develop.
- c) Learning takes place through **association**.
- d) He will become **more open** and **honest** regarding his true problems.
- e) Genuine **friendship** develops, rather than the obligation of service.

4. The Discipler Must Give a **Realistic** View of Himself to the Disciple.

The apostle Paul was frank and honest with his disciples (**2 Corinthians 7:5-6**). He said, "*For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn - conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him.*"

5. The Discipler is to **Counsel** the Disciple

In order for meaningful counsel to happen, the right relationship must develop. This will take place only...

- a) by showing personal **concern**;
- b) by allowing your own **weaknesses** to be revealed;
- c) by being a **friend** rather than a "part-time tutor;"
- d) by being **credible**;
- e) by being a **listener**;
- f) by **accepting** the disciple for who he is.

When you and your disciple really get to know each other, confidences will be shared. Here are some principles to remember:

- i) Use the **Word** of God in Love (**Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**).
- ii) Never **tell** anyone the confidences revealed by the disciple.
- iii) Don't let your interest turn to "**curiosity**."
- iv) Do not listen to **detailed** accounts of sins or problems.

**C. Meeting with your disciple**

There should be definite times set aside and designated for the edification of your disciple. When you meet this way with your disciple, we suggest that you plan to do the following things:

1. Have a time of **prayer** with him, encouraging him to talk to God naturally, as a friend.
2. Have a **discussion** time. Talk about the events of the past week, the victories or the defeats. Spend adequate time ministering to the present needs revealed. This may take the entire balance of the meeting time; but that should not happen in every case to the neglect of Biblical instruction.
3. Have a **lesson** time. The Bible lessons should be guided toward fulfilling the goals mentioned earlier - inspiring the disciple to be:
  - (a) **Christ-like** in character
  - (b) **Dependent** upon Christ
  - (c) **Independent** of others
  - (d) **Consistent** in his walk
4. Close with conversational **prayer**. In prayer, the things that were touched upon in the meeting can be re-emphasized. Leave your disciple with a joyful spirit of faith for the future, not a preoccupation with needs.

**D. *Motivating your disciple***

The enthusiasm of a new convert is great, but it often hits "dry" spots. What can be done to motivate your disciple to continue his purposeful walk and growth in the Lord? Here are several ways you can do that:

1. Motivate by showing **unconditional** love. Jesus didn't leave a list of 1,000 things to do. He motivated His disciples by:

|                                              |                   |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Serving them                                 | (John 13:1-5)     |
| Preparing a place for them                   | (John 14: 1-3)    |
| Promising the Holy Spirit would come forever | (John 14:17)      |
| His protective love through danger           | (John 15:18-16:4) |
| The promise of future comfort                | (John 16:19-22)   |
| His prayer that their joy might be full      | (John 16:23-24)   |

2. Motivate by **encouraging** him to a more God-conscious life.

|                                                   |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| "Encourage and exhort one another"                | Hebrews 3:13           |
| "As a father would his children"                  | 1 Thessalonians 2:11   |
| "Exhort, build one another up"                    | 1 Thessalonians 45: 11 |
| "I strive... that your hearts might be comforted" | Colossians 2:1-2a      |

- a) Give him words of **encouragement**:
    - Tell him your appreciation of him
    - Tell him he brings joy to you
    - Notice his growth in Christ
    - Mention positive qualities others see in Him
    - Tell him how he ministers to you
  - (b) Send notes of **appreciation**.
  - (c) Let him hear you mention his **name** in prayer, thanking God for him.
  - (d) Show **interest** and enthusiasm about what your disciple is doing.
3. Motivate by **challenging** his faith to grow.
    - a) Give him **responsibility**, then increase it as growth happens.
    - b) Share **books** about great men and women of faith.
    - c) Make personal challenges with **goals** to reach.
  4. Motivate by conveying **enthusiasm** in the things of the Lord.
  5. Motivate by your **own** consistent walk.
  6. Motivate by seeing his **potential**.
  7. Motivate by emphasizing **practical** training.
  8. Motivate by your own **prayer** support. (**Colossians 1:9-10; Philippians 1: 9- 10**)
  9. Motivate by getting him into the **Bible**.

Note **Psalm 119**:

V77 - The Word was his delight,

V48 - and love.

V11 - It kept him from sin

V24 - counseled him,

V38 - produced reverence for God,

V98 -increased his wisdom,

V105 - guided his steps,  
V165 - gave him peace,  
V104 - and gave him understanding.

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3. Bob Gordon, *The Foundations of the Christian Living*, Sovereign World, England, 1988.