



Introduction to Discipleship

Part III

Matthew 16:18

Jesus said, “On this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- ◉ Jesus was making a declaration of invasion against the world. The gates represent a portal entry and the world is trying to keep the church out! Not an option, we have a mandate according to Matthew 28:19–20.
- ◉ Some people (even Christians) may believe that they can have a relationship with God without the church. Hebrews 10:24–25 says that is not so. How would we preserve the integrity of the Doctrine, the history of the Gospel, the salt and light in the earth without the church.



Matthew 16:18

Jesus said, “On this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- In Romans 10:14–15, “How then will they call on Him whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him who they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?”
- We, as believers, have a responsibility to share with Jesus in the building of the church, (Body of Christ) called and chosen by Christ. 2 Peter 1:3 states “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.





Developing Christian Growth and Maturity in the Kingdom of God through Discipleship

Are You a Disciple or Just a Believer?

Definition

- What is a disciple?
- A disciple is a believer in Christ who takes part in the spiritual development process of progressively learning how to live all of their lives under the lordship of Jesus Christ.



Three Ways to Make Disciples (Go, Baptize, and Teach)

- ◉ Go–Deliver the fact that Jesus Christ has come and that He has come with authority.
- ◉ Baptize them–Baptism is our place of identification. (It has no saving power)
- ◉ Teach them–The purpose of teaching is to understand or to learn what it means to be a representative of Christ.



Explanation of What It Means to be Chosen and Called by Jesus to be a Disciple

- ◉ Though discipleship is familiar and often discussed, it's probably the weakest and least practiced function in the church. The goal of kingdom disciples is to live transformed lives as the legal representatives by reflecting and implementing God's authority and will on earth. Kingdom discipleship and authority go hand in hand.
- ◉ As a kingdom disciple, we are uniquely positioned as an extension of God's legitimate authority in heaven so that His will and work are done on earth.





Six Disciplines for New and Growing Believers

Are You a Disciple or Just a Believer?

I. Abide in Christ

- To abide in Christ is central to all the disciplines. Jesus invites you into a love relationship with Himself. He wants you to know, understand, and live according to His commands so that you can experience the best life God has for you.
- John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches; He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing.” The word abide means to continue in, to dwell, to remain, or to stand. Jesus wants us to be solidly connected to Him.



I. Abide in Christ (cont'd)

- ◉ Jesus wants to live in (Holy Spirit) us and He wants us to live in Him. We can do nothing apart from Him and any fruit we bear comes because of His working in and through us.
- ◉ The intimate love relationship and oneness with Jesus Christ are the basis for abiding in Christ. It is the central discipline and is connected to all the other disciplines. The other disciplines help to strengthen your abiding in Christ. Together they help you grow forward in spiritual maturity and a balanced life of discipleship.



II. Live in the Word

- ◉ James 1:22 “Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- ◉ We are to read, study, memorize, and meditate on God’s word to know Him and understand His commands, His purposes, and His ways. Then we can live our lives in a way that pleases God and is abundantly full for us.
- ◉ Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.” The Bible is a treasure book that is our authoritative source for faith and a trustworthy guide for godly living. God has revealed Himself , His purposes, and His ways in the Bible.



II. Live in the Word (cont'd)

- ◉ In addition there is great reward in keeping them.”
- ◉ God’s word is intended to point you to Him for a relationship with Him. His Holy Spirit can help you apply His Word so that you can gain all the benefits God has in store for you. Reading and studying God’s Word need to include a consistent prayer life. The knowledge of God’s Word and the relationship to Him in prayer go together.
- ◉ Read 2Timothy 3:16–17, Psalm 119:105–111, 2Timothy 2:15 and James 1:22. As we memorize, study, and do God’s Word, we will live an intentional life seeking God’s will and being obedient to the guidelines He has put in place. We will be better prepared to stand strong against Satan when he comes our way.



III. Pray in the Faith

- ◉ Mark 11:24 “All things you pray and ask for—believe that you have received them and you will have them”.
- ◉ Prayer is not just a religious activity, it describes a relationship with a person. Jesus spent time in prayer with His Father. Prayer was an important part of His decision making as He sought the Father’s will and words. Jesus taught His disciples to be persons of prayer. Praying allows us to experience intimate communion with God. We can receive God’s counsel, directions, cleansing through confession, and work together with God through petitions for yourself as well as intercession for others.



III. Pray in the Faith (cont'd)

- ◉ God is the giver of everything that is good and perfect. He lavishes His love and bounty on us spiritually and physically. We become partakers in His riches. His desire is for us to experience an abundant life. Psalm 57:9–10 Keeping God's commands and doing what pleases Him are important prerequisites to answered prayer. Sin and iniquity are some things that hinder prayer. Matthew 7:7–8 Giving God a reason to answer is to pray for God's honor (which is His reputation), appeal to God's character (His nature), and acknowledge God's Sovereignty (Rules of the universe, supreme, authority over all people, rulers, governments, and nations). John 14:13



IV. Fellowship With Believers

- ◉ Right relationships are essential for a follower of Jesus Christ. Colossians 3:12–13.
- ◉ We must forgive one another as Christ forgives us. God commanded us to forgive for our own sake and for the way we represent Christ to others.
- ◉ Experiencing fellowship is modeled in the life we come to share deeply with the Father and Jesus Christ His Son. (John 1:3) When we have a right relationship with God, we can share that same intimate partnership with the rest of the body of Christ.
- ◉ Acts 2: 42–43, 47–To fellowship with believers we share a partnership with others in the body of Christ in which we love and care for one another while experiencing God working in and through us to accomplish His kingdom purposes.



IV. Fellowship With Believers (cont'd)

- ⦿ Through fellowship we learn to accept one another. Romans 15:7 We also learn to love one another. John 13:34 Genuine love is a distinguishing trait of those who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ.
- ⦿ Keeping the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:1–3) will be realized when we as believers walk in the power of the Holy Spirit acknowledging Christ as the head of the church. We won't allow pride to be the barrier to unity in the body Christ.



V. Witness to the World

- ◉ Evangelism—the active calling of people to respond to the message of grace and commit oneself to God in Jesus Christ. According to the Holman Bible Dictionary.
- ◉ Evangelism is derived from the Greek word evangelon meaning “gospel” or “good news”. The verbal forms of euangelizo, meaning “to bring” or “to announce good news” occur some 55 times (Acts 8:4, 25, 35, 11:20) and are normally translated with the appropriate form of the word “preach”. Evangelism has to do with the proclamation of the message of good news. It is preaching the gospel, communicating God’s message of mercy to sinners.
- ◉ In Acts 1:8 Jesus challenges all disciples to take the gospel to the world beginning at home. No Christian is exempt from this basic element of living, to share the good news.



V. Witness to the World (cont'd)

- ◉ To be a witness is the same word from which we get the English word martyr. These early believers were witnesses/martyrs in the truest sense. Many lost their lives because of their uncompromising witness of Christ.
- ◉ Jesus told us to take the gospel, or good news starting at home to the ends of the Earth which will take total participation and penetration on our parts as believers empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8, 9–12, 13–26)
- ◉ Evangelism is the ultimate goal of the kingdom focused church and everything the church does has to contribute one way or another to reaching that goal. Church growth without evangelism is impossible.



V. Witness to the World (cont'd)

- ◉ Ignoring an opportunity to evangelize can change the course of history for the worse as much as action, in the name of Christ can change it for the better. We have both the privilege and responsibility to witness to the lost and dying world around us. It's time for the modern church to get back to the basic, following the example of the early believers.
- ◉ We must meditate on the Word, utilize the awesome power of the Holy Spirit within us to make disciples to love, trust, and obey God creating an environment of fellowship. Fellowship encourages disciples to evangelize.
- ◉ In everything we do for God's glory, He promised never to leave nor forsake us. We are in righteous hands, what better place is there to be?



VI. Minister to Others

- ◉ We should model a life of service as Jesus did for His disciples and for us. As Jesus did for His disciples and for us. Galatians 5:13
“Serve one another through love.”
- ◉ Jesus did not come to be served but to serve others. Mark 10:42–45 His calling to us is to a life of service to those who are in need both in the body of Christ and in the world that have not yet delivered. When we love and serve others we show our love for Christ Himself and God uses that service to build up the body of Christ.
- ◉ Ephesians 4:11–13 tells us that there are pastors, evangelists, teachers, etc. that God called to prepare the body of Christ for works of service.



VI. Minister to Others (cont'd)

- ◉ We are to minister to others by showing love as we meet the needs of fellow believers or non-believers. Prayer should always be a major part in seeking directions of ways to help.
- ◉ We also minister through comforting one another. 2Corinthians 1:3-4 God who comforts us in our afflictions, so we may be able to comfort those who are in afflictions also.
- ◉ The experiences of death, abandonment, loneliness, financial crisis, homelessness, etc. Where God has comforted, rescued, or delivered us out of are our testimonies to minister to others.
- ◉ When we have experienced the grace and favor of God firsthand, we get to speak with authority and a familiarity that others can relate to which helps us in our spiritual growth to become kingdom disciples.



Facilitator/O-Quiz

Please send an email with your answers to the questions for this quiz and any comments or concerns to:

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Questions

- What is the Bible scripture that references “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”?
- What is the definition of a disciple?
- What is the Bible scripture that tells us we should abide in Christ?
- Name three ways to make disciples.
- What are the Six Disciplines a growing believer should have?
- Are you a disciple or just a believer? Tell me why?

