



CLASS TWO: DISCIPLINES OF DISCIPLESHIP

DISCIPLINES THAT MAKE CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLES

Since discipleship is a lifelong process, it requires discipline. People who are not disciplined cannot become Christ-like, for Christ was very disciplined when He walked the earth.

1. The Discipline of Learning!

A disciple is a student who must be ready and willing to learn at all times. This discipline is vital to the growth of every disciple; it allows him/her to identify and incorporate other disciplines.

There are two main ways we learn as disciples:

- Learning from God's Word

We cannot grow outside God's Word. The main manual for discipleship is the Bible. We can read other books, but everything must be based on His Word.

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" [1 Peter 2:2].

****We must place a very high value on God's Word. We must make time for His Word****

There cannot be discipleship without one making the conscious effort to read God's Word. It is not enough for a student to listen to teachings on discipleship and just write them down. He or She must search the Scriptures personally.

The Bible says; **"They found that the Jews of Berea were of more noble character and much more open minded than those of Thessalonica. They were hungry to learn and eagerly received the word. Every day they opened the scrolls of Scripture to search and examine them, to verify that what Paul taught them was true" [Acts 17:11 TPT].**

A disciple must fall in love with the Scriptures. His delight must be in the Word of God – as the Bible says; **"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" [Psalm 1:2].**

Discipleship is a deliberate process and so a disciple must be deliberate about reading God's word. The more we read His Word, the more we would like to read it. The more we look into His Word, the more we see our standard (Jesus) and the more we yearn to be like Him in all things.

****Our delight in His Word increases when we read more of His Word****

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" [2 Corinthians 3:18].

"The scriptures make us wise unto Salvation: and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in



righteousness, **17** so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" [**2 Timothy 3:15-17**].

- Learning from your shepherd (disciple-maker)

You cannot become a disciple on your own. Every student needs a teacher. God has blessed us with gifts that include disciple-makers. A disciple must learn to receive from His master (disciple-maker). Every disciple must decide to follow. The disciples had to follow Jesus to learn. Many do not like following or many start following but stop along the way.

This is why it says: "When He ascended on high, He led captives in His train and gave gifts to men" [**Ephesians 4:8**].

****A sheep would always follow a shepherd****

No matter how much you know, you must be ready to follow your disciple-maker.

"When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice" [**John 10:4-5**].

One must humble himself if he is going to learn from his leader/disciple-maker. Humility would always make learning easier. The disciples of Jesus humbled themselves enough to follow Jesus and His teachings. One must be teachable if he would ever learn. To be a teachable person is a choice one must make. To be a disciple is to be an apprentice. An apprentice is a teachable person.

2. The Discipline of Commitment to Spiritual Things.

Discipleship is a spiritual thing and so it involves spiritual activities. We cannot spend 95% of our time on carnal things and hope we become Christ-like disciples. "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace" [**Romans 8:6**].

****We are filled spiritually after we have a personal thirst for spiritual things****

We must weigh our activities and see which ones are making us Christ-like disciples and which ones are not making us Christ-like disciples. We must spend more time on things that make us Christ-like disciples and less time on the things which do not make us Christ-like disciples. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" [**Matthew 5:6**].

Our flesh would not like it initially when we begin to switch from carnal things to spiritual things. But with time, we would begin to get used to spiritual things.

****We must be ready to commit our time to discipleship instead of doing things that are not beneficial****



3. The Discipline of Prioritizing Our Relationship with God.

Our relationship with God should always be the most important in our life. When we put our earthly relationships above our relationship with God, discipleship is difficult. We must make sure we spend time with God each day before we do other things.

Several scriptures show the need for disciples to prioritize their relationship with God. This is not intended to be done in a ritualistic manner, where you are eager to fulfil a religious obligation and not a desire to know God. Below are some of the scriptures that point to prioritizing God, God must be first in all we do.

Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" [**Luke 9:61–62**].

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" [**Matthew 6:33**].

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength [**Mark 12:30**].

****Discipleship would not be possible if we don't place a high value on our relationship with God****