

FOCUSED DISCIPLESHIP

(Thoughts for Our Eleos Couples and "Mind of Christ Groups.")



1 Cor 9:25-27 NIV

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Matt 28:19-20 NLT *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Luke 6:40 NLT *A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher.*

The 3 Stages in Making a Disciple

What should happen to a person after "getting saved?" Eph 2:2-10

He becomes a disciple who is first a

#1 LEARNER - HELPER

Rom 12:1-2

("Getting Well" - learning what God thinks about life)

Characterized by a devotion to prayer, the Word, intimate fellowship, holiness, and worship

then a

#2 WORKER - INFLUENCER

Matt 9:37-38

("Getting Going" - becoming an active part of the "discipleship process")

Characterized by a passion for sharing the Gospel and bearing the burdens of others

and sometimes, as God directs and provides, a

#3 LEADER - VISIONARY

2 Tim 2:2

("Getting Others Going" - becoming a completely committed Christ follower)

Characterized by initiative, personal vision, the ability to motivate others, and single-mindedness in his efforts to serve God's Church and further His Kingdom

Our Approach to Making Disciples:

Col 1:28-29 NLT *So everywhere we go, we tell everyone about Christ. We warn them and teach them with all the wisdom God has given us, for we want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. I work very hard at this, as I depend on Christ's mighty power that works within me.*

1 Thess 2:8 NLT *We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.*

**The 7 Key Areas of Life We need to Frequently Address as
We Lead a Friend Through the Stages of Discipleship**

His or her:

- 1. personal walk with Jesus**
- 2. marriage**
- 3. kids**
- 4. career**
- 5. money**
- 6. health**
- 7. extended family**

Ps 37:30-31 NLT

***The godly offer good counsel;
they know what is right from wrong.
They fill their hearts with God's law,
so they will never slip from his path.***

2 Cor 5:9-10 NAS

*Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Many Aspire, but Few Attain *(The Basics Needed to Succeed Spiritually)*

A. FELLOWSHIP

- 1. a good Bible teaching church**
- 2. a life-giving small group**
- 3. a committed mentor**

B. PRAYER

- 1. God talks to you - listening prayer**
- 2. you talk to God - ACTS**
Adoration - Confession - Thanksgiving - Supplication

C. THE WORD

- 1. read**
- 2. hear**
- 3. study**
- 4. memorize** (see back page for Topical Memory Verses)
- 5. meditate**

John 15:5 NAS

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Matt 19:21-22 NLT Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." But when the young man heard this, he went sadly away because he had many possessions.

Choosing Whom You Will Serve and Instruct

(As Christ ones we need to be available to serve those who ask our help; but ultimately only a few truly want it!)

1. It appears that some people are convinced that they can't obey the basic teachings of Jesus.

The Reasons: "unresolved" demonic oppression, mental illness, chemical imbalances, etc.

Our Remediation: refer them to a professional and invite them to one of our "Mind of Christ" groups.

2. A much larger group of people simply won't obey the commandments of our Lord.

The Reasons: persecution; the worries of the world; the deceitfulness of riches; the desire for other things (Mark 4:14-20).

Our Remediation: refer them to a professional and invite them to one of our "Mind of Christ" groups.

3. And a small but important group of people will work very hard to cooperate with Christ in obeying the laws of His Kingdom.

Our Plan: these FAT people become our focus. Pray fervently to know God's desire for your involvement with these disciples. Get them in a good church, a good small group under your leadership if possible, and meet with them occasionally "one on one" to address specific needs. Give them homework to complete and steadily raise the spiritual bar. Make sure to live life with them whenever possible. Remember "modeling" is our most effective method of education. I am always encouraged when I see three qualities developing: 1) a passion for God's Word, 2) a hatred of their own sin 3) an ability to accept criticism and use it to instigate positive change in their life.

"Bible teachers should stress that a personal, self-denying, costly, and persistent following of Christ is necessary if a person is to be acknowledged by Jesus at the final day. In the absence of this teaching millions drift on, assuming that because they have made verbal acknowledgment of Christ ten, twenty, or even thirty years ago and have done nothing terribly bad since, they are Christians, when actually they may be far from Christ, devoid of grace, and in danger of perishing forever."
from Christ's Call to Discipleship by James Boice

Marks of a Disciple *(a learner on the way)*

Symptomatic of his new nature, a disciple of Jesus Christ joyfully strives to:

1. surrender his identity to Christ and conform to His likeness (Phil 3:4-8; Rom 8:29)
2. know and obey God's Word, the Bible [*loves God; hates sin*] (Jn 14:21; 1 Jn 2:3-4)
3. embrace a life of prayer and meditation (Mk 11:22-25; James 5:16)
4. love fellow believers and voluntarily submit to them (Jn 13:34-35; Eph 5:21)
5. die to himself [*bears his cross and doesn't become offended*] (Matt 10:32-39; Gal 2:20)
6. live by faith [*doesn't become worried*] (Eph 2:8; Heb 11:1-6)
7. share the Gospel with the lost (1 Cor 9:19-23; Col 1:28-29)
8. bear the burdens of others [*the heart of a bondservant*] (Mk 10:35-45; Gal 6:2)
9. own nothing (Matt 8:20; Luke 12:15-21)
10. remember that apart from Christ he can do nothing [*humility*] (Jn 15:5; Eph 2:8-9)

"I will be most useful and most content when I grasp the truth that my life is not about me but about God."

Matt 4:17 *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."* NIV

The Kingdom of Heaven – the rule of God in the hearts of men.

The Signs of Wellness

(the blessings of living in compliance to the teachings of Jesus)

As a Christ follower regularly engages in the study of the Word, in prayer, and in intimate fellowship with other sincere believers who will pour into his life, God brings about some wonderful changes in the person's character. I have found that these three characteristics combined are often a signal that the believer is ready to go "make disciples" himself. As best I can describe them, the three characteristics of people who demonstrate this mental and spiritual wellness in their lives are:

1. an inability to remain offended from slights, criticism, & gossip

Rom 12:14-19 NIV

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

2. an inability to worry about the future

Matt 6:28-34 NIV

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

3. an inability to feel insecure

Ps 139:13-16 NIV

3 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Matt 28:19 - 20 NLT

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Why Jesus Commanded Us to "Make Disciples?"

Example #1: Jane at age 34 introduces two friends to Christ and devotes her life to them. She diligently teaches them Jesus' commandments and models His character to them through her own behavior. She prays for her students fervently. At the end of three years they are *both* able to introduce two new friends to our Lord and begin this powerful process. Jane does the same. This geometric progression continues until Jane joins the Lord in Heaven at age 70. How many people will she have influenced significantly for Christ at the time of her death?

1. Number of People Discipled Per Session (Number of Years Total) = Total Number Discipled
(Number of Years per Session)
2. 2 people per session, 36 years total, 3 years per session
3. 2 raised to the 12th power (or on an HP12 C calculator --- 2 enter 12 yx)
= 4096

Example #2: Imagine the same scenario above except John begins at age 26 and serves the Lord until his death at age 80. He is blessed to disciple 4 at a time, but it takes 6 years before they are able to disciple others. How many souls would he influence? **262,144** (*if one of the original 4 fails to become a disciple maker, this number is reduced by 65,536 souls)

Example #3: Bill, age 54, lives to be 78. Because he is retired, he is able to spend time with 6 friends and co-labor with God in discipling them so that in 3 years they are able to do the same for 6 friends each. How many people will Bill influence in his "winter" years if he continues this process?

1,679,616

2 Tim 2:2 NLT

You have heard me teach many things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others.

**What Does God Really Want Us to Do?
(To get saved, to get well, to get going!)**

It all begins with:

Belief

in God and His one and only mediator, Jesus Christ
("Pistis" - Greek word for trust, reliance, faith)

John 6:28&29

Heb. 11:1-6

which produces

Love

for the triune God and our fellow man

Matt. 22:36-40

which produces

Obedience

John 14:21

1 John 2:3-6

which produces both

Personal Holiness

and

***Kingdom
Service***

("Hagiasmos" - Greek word for sanctification; the conduct befitting those separated to God)

Rom. 12: 1&2; 1 Peter 1:15

**Planned
Service**

1 Cor. 9:24-27

**Spontaneous
Service**

1 Peter 3:15

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Phillip and the Eunuch
(Acts 8: 4-40)

The Results - We:

- 1. Please God**
Ps. 51:16&17
- 2. Attract the Righteous**
1 Cor. 1:18
- 3. Anger the Wicked**
1 Peter. 4:4&5

The Results - We:

- 1. Bear Burdens**
Gal. 6:2
- 2. Make Disciples**
Matt. 28:19&20
- 3. Meet the needs of the poor**
Gal. 2:10

How to Develop a Disciple of Jesus Christ

“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 am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matt. 28:19-20

I. Teaching – the imparting of *knowledge*

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” 3 John 1:4

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|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. God’s Character | 11. Forgiveness | 21. Creation |
| 2. God’s Attributes | 12. Water Baptism | 22. Good Works |
| 3. Man’s Depravity | 13. The Holy Spirit | 23. Servanthood |
| 4. Confession & Repentance | 14. Spiritual Gifts | 24. God’s Guidance |
| 5. God’s Plan of Salvation (the Bridge) | 15. The Tongue | 25. The Body of Christ |
| 6. The Bible – God’s Word (the Hand) | 16. Spiritual Warfare | 26. Perseverance |
| 7. Assurance of Salvation | 17. Heaven | 27. Apologetics |
| 8. Love/Grace | 18. Hell | 28. Holiness/Purity |
| 9. Obedience (the Wheel) | 19. Our Thinking | 29. Humility |
| 10. Dating/Marriage/Sex | 20. Christ’s Return | 30. Gratitude |

II. Training – the imparting of *skill*

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others.” 2 Tim. 2:2

➤ Teach him how to:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. have a quiet time | 7. share the Gospel |
| 2. study the Bible | 8. give (time, talents, & money) |
| 3. pray | 9. resist the devil |
| 4. choose a church | 10. fast |
| 5. start a covenant group | 11. disciple another |
| 6. memorize & meditate on the Word | 12. worship |

III. Building – the imparting of *character*

“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” 1 Thess. 2:8

➤ **Endeavor to model Christ-likeness and pray for the fruit of the Spirit to develop in his life (Gal. 5:22-23)**

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|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 6. Goodness |
| 2. Joy | 7. Faithfulness |
| 3. Peace | 8. Gentleness |
| 4. Patience | 9. Self-control |
| 5. Kindness | |

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Col. 1:28-29

The Importance of Prayer

1. "We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results." R.S. Torrey
2. "I'd rather be able to pray than be a great preacher; Jesus never taught his disciples how to preach, but only to pray." D.L. Moody
3. "It is a great thing to talk to men about God, but it is a far greater thing to talk to God about men." E.M. Bounds
4. "No one comes to Christ but that another prays for him." John Wesley
5. "The purpose of prayer is to get into step with God, not to manipulate or coerce Him into blessing personal plans. Prayer is not a preparation for work. It is work. Prayer is not a preparation for the battle. It is the battle. Prayer to two-fold: definite asking and definite waiting to receive." Oswald Chambers

Matt 6:9-13 NAS

9 "Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10>Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. 11'Give us this day our daily bread. 12'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.[For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]'

Prayer and Study 101

(You will need a quiet place with no distractions, a Bible, and a note book and pen.

Scripture - Observation - Application - Prayer

1. **Thoughtfully read some Scripture; record your observations from the reading; record your applications.**
2. **Lift your spirit to God in praise for who He is.**
3. **Thank Him for your many blessings.**
4. **Sit quietly and listen for the voice of the Lord communicating with your spirit. Let Him lead you to:**
 - a. **Any sin you need to address in your life. Confess and determine to repent.**
 - b. **Others for who you need to intercede.**
5. **Ask the Lord to address your concerns.**

Navigator Topical Memory System
(To Know Christ and to Make Him Known)

**Memorize one new passage/week and meditate on it; review the passage from the week before*

A. LIVE THE NEW LIFE

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|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Christ the Center | 2 Cor 5:17 | Gal 2:20 |
| 2. Obedience to Christ | Rom 12:1 | John 14:21 |
| 3. The Word | 2 Tim 3:16 | Joshua 1:8 |
| 4. Prayer | John 15:7 | Phil 4:6-7 |
| 5. Fellowship | Matt 18:20 | Heb 10:24-25 |
| 6. Witnessing | Matt 4:19 | Rom 1:16 |

B. PROCLAIM CHRIST

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|---------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. All have sinned | Rom 3:23 | Isa 53:6 |
| 2. Sin's penalty | Rom 6:23 | Heb 9:27 |
| 3. Christ paid penalty | Rom 5:8 | 1 Pet 3:18 |
| 4. Salvation not by works | Eph 2:8-9 | Titus 3:5 |
| 5. Must receive Christ | John 1:12 | Rev 3:20 |
| 6. Assurance of salvation | 1 John 5:13 | John 5:24 |

C. RELY ON GOD'S RESOURCES

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|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. His Spirit | 1 Cor 3:16 | 1 Cor 2:12 |
| 2. His strength | Isa 41:10 | Phil 4:13 |
| 3. His faithfulness | Lam 3:22-23 | Num 23:19 |
| 4. His peace | Isa 26:3 | 1 Pet 5:7 |
| 5. His provision | Rom 8:32 | Phil 4:19 |
| 6. His help in temptation | Heb 2:18 | Ps 119:9-11 |

D. BE CHRIST'S DISCIPLE

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Put Christ first | Matt 6:33 | Luke 9:23 |
| 2. Separate from
the world | 1 John 2:15-16 | Rom 12:2 |
| 3. Be steadfast (loyal) | 1 Cor 15:58 | Heb 12:3 |
| 4. Serve others | Mark 10:45 | 2 Cor 4:5 |
| 5. Give generously | Prov 3:9-10 | 2 Cor 9:6-7 |
| 6. Develop world vision | Acts 1:8 | Matt 28:19-20 |

E. GROW IN CHRIST-LIKENESS

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|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Love | John 13:34-35 | 1 John 3:18 |
| 2. Humility | Phil 2:3-4 | 1 Pet 5:5-6 |
| 3. Purity | Eph 5:3 | 1 Pet 2:11 |
| 4. Honesty | Lev 19:11 | Acts 24:16 |
| 5. Faith | Heb 11:6 | Rom 4:20-21 |
| 6. Good works | Gal 6:9-10 | Matt 5:16 |

