

## The Foundations of Life Series, Part 2

### Living Out The Word, A True Sign Of Discipleship

#### Morals of Believers

A study conducted by The Roper Organization for High Adventure Ministries in 1990 found that the moral behavior of born again Christians actually worsened after their conversions. Examined were incidences of illegal drug use, driving while intoxicated and marital infidelity. The problem can be solved, says one researcher, with a new commitment to accountability and discipleship. *New Man*, November/December, 1994, p. 13

### Matthew 7:24-27

*24 'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.*

*25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.*

*26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.*

*27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!*

#### We Are Called To Discipleship.

Discipleship is a lifestyle that is developed out of love and obedience to Christ and His Teachings. In direct commitment to Christ and the mentors that God uses to develop our spiritual character and well being.

#### Baker's Evangelical Dictionary, Defining Discipleship

*Jesus and His Disciples.* The Old Testament theme of God with his people finds explicit fulfillment in Jesus with his people. The promise of a coming Davidic Messiah is intertwined with the promise that God himself would be with his people. The significance of Matthew's interpretation of the meaning of Jesus' name, "Immanuel," therefore, cannot be overstated: "'The virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us'" ([Matt 1:23](#)). In Jesus, God has come to be with his people, to fulfill the deepest meaning of the covenant—God with his people as Master, Lord, and Savior. Although discipleship was a voluntary initiative with other types of master-disciple relationships in the first century, with Jesus the initiative lay with his call ([Matt 4:19](#); [9:9](#); [Mark 1:17](#); [2:14](#); cf. [Luke 5:10-11](#), [27-28](#)) and his choice ([John 15:16](#)) of those who would be his disciples. The response to the call involves recognition and belief in Jesus' identity ([John 2:11](#); [6:68-69](#)), obedience to his summons ([Mark 1:18,20](#)), and counting the cost of full allegiance to him ([Matt 19:23-30](#); [Luke 14:25-28](#)). His call is the beginning of something new; it means losing one's old life ([Matt 10:34-37](#); [Luke 9:23-25](#)) and finding new life in the family of God through obeying the will of the Father ([Matt 12:46-50](#)).

## **Accountability is Essential in the Art of Discipleship.**

Without it our Spiritual Training Cannot Develop to its full potential For we are seeing through a glass darkly without the "outside" looking in approach of a spiritual mentor in our lives.

We need strong Christian believers and or ministers teaching and equipping us. The five fold ministry was given to us for the purpose of just that. Equipping us with what is necessary intellectually, spiritually and physically to accomplish all the Christ has called us to. We cannot be an island unto ourselves and expect God to mold us on His Potter's Wheel into the fully grown Child of God He desires to.

You cannot be pastored or equipped through a television ministry or a radio ministry. You need a mentor, an example. A friend that sticketh closer than a brother if you will. Whom will help you in your personal relationship in Jesus Christ. Discipleship is a process of becoming all that Christ has envisioned for you, and takes discipline and self determination. You've got to be in it for the "long haul".

Running the Race With Patience. Discipleship Takes Time to Develop.

### **1 Cor 9:24**

*24 Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it*

### **Hebrews 12:1**

*12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,\* and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,*

God is Going to Test Your Love for Him. He is going to want you to lay aside those things that are like dead weight spiritually. Which could keep you from aspiring to the full stature of Christ in You the Hope of Glory. He is going to challenge you to become the best that you can be, and to prove your love and devotion to the Cross by obedience to His Word. Which is most probably the greatest love test you can pass in walking by faith and not by sight. Taking a hold of the hem of His garment and allowing His Holy Spirit to impart His anointing for everyday living.

### **1 John 2:4,5**

*4 Whoever says, 'I have come to know him', but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist;*

*5 but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection. By this we may be sure that we are in him:*

Obedience to the Word is linked to perfection. That is accomplished by the revelation that is granted by the Holy Spirit, as we are mentored and living out our lives through our walk of Faith. Giving us inside and understanding in how we might walk in the power of God, putting on the whole armor of God. Which is able to equip us unto victorious Christian living.

### **Running the Right Race**

We need direction, and whether it is the Five Fold Ministry or the example of Godly Saints of God. Or, the personal work of the Holy Spirit. The insight these ministries give us can help us to fight the right battles and accomplish the Work that the Lord has set us out to do. Developing into the Disciples of Destiny Christ has foreordained us to become

## **1 Cor 3:12ff**

### **Running in Vain**

A world-class woman runner was invited to compete in a road race in Connecticut. On the morning of the race, she drove from New York City, following the directions, or so she thought, given her over the telephone. She got lost, stopped at a gas station, and asked for help. She knew that the race started in the parking lot of a shopping mall. The station attendant also knew of such a race scheduled just up the road and directed her there. When she arrived she was relieved to see in the parking lot a modest number of runners preparing to compete. Not as many as she'd anticipated; an easier race than she'd been led to expect. She hurried to the registration desk, announced herself, and was surprised by the race officials' excitement at having so renowned an athlete show up for their race. No, they had no record of her entry, but if she'd hurry and put on this number, she could just make it before the gun goes off. She ran and, naturally, she won easily, some four minutes ahead of the first male runner in second place. Only after the race, when there was no envelope containing her sizable prize and performance money, did she confirm that the event she'd run was not the race to which she'd been invited. That race was being held several miles farther up the road in another town. She'd gone to the wrong starting line, run the wrong course, and missed her chance to win a valuable prize. *Thinking And Acting Like A Christian, D. Bruce Lockerbie, p. 52*