

## **Foundations of Life, Part 3**

### **Proof Of Discipleship**

Your attitude toward God's Word is your attitude toward God Himself. You do not love God more than You love His Word. You do not obey God more than you obey His Word. You do not honor God more than you honor God's Word. You do not have more room in your heart and life for God than you have for His Word.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

*16 All scripture is inspired by God and is\* useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*

Discipleship is a process of pruning, refining, reshaping and altogether allowing the Work of the Holy Spirit the ability to shape your spirit man. The inside part of you where God's presence abides, and where your inner man is developed to express through your outward man " The Body ". The absolute devotion and wisdom of Almighty God which can positively affect your entire World.

John 6:63 tells us that, " The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life " NKJV. It is through His Word made alive by the Holy Spirit that we receive illumination and understanding. Which allows us to embody in our lives the very principles and anointing of God, that empowered the Christ to walk on this earth and touch and change so many lives for eternity.

**Your Response to The Word Determines its Effect.**

### **James 1:21**

*21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.*

How you respond to the preached or taught Word makes all the difference in the world. You can either reject the Word of Truth, and not embrace what the Spirit is saying unto the Church. Or, you can receive it and express it through your thoughts and actions in your everyday life. Building upon the foundation of faith you've received through Jesus Christ the Lord.

This embodiment or imitation of Christ is the proof of your becoming the disciple of Christ He wants you to be. For it is in our outward expression of life that we touch the very fabric of all creation with the power of God's Word. Which becomes alive through our using, witnessing and transferring its life giving flow into the hearts and minds of those around about us.

## 1 Cor 1:6

*6 just as the testimony of\* Christ has been strengthened among you—*

### **Quote**

*Children have never been good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.*

- James Baldwin

As children we need to imitate and take upon ourselves the characteristics of Christ. It might start first by just following the example of the individual whom led you to Christ. Little things like reading the Bible, or changing the way we talk. Or, faithfulness to the House of God. Wherever it begins in most instances it is through a good Godly examples.

I personally am fortunate I had a wonderful pastor's son whom loved God and for the most part " lived " the gospel. His attitude and love for God blest me in so many ways, and his example and faithfulness to God is something I looked up to. His father later became more of the person I patterned myself after. His singing, preaching and teaching help shape my early years of Christian development. How thankful I am to God for Godly saints whom I was able to " learn " from in so many ways.

### **Disciples of Christ Are Progressive.**

## Luke 9:62

*62 Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'*

## Hebrews 12:2

*2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of\* the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.*

As New Testament believer's we can be thankful for what God has done for us, and appreciate His precious work in our lives. However, we must be progressive in our faith and always looking to build upon the faith that has been delivered unto us. Not allowing our spiritual foundations to get weak with age, or our spiritual living water stagnant because of lack a of a fresh flow of the Holy Spirit within us.

We are overcomers whom can become more than conqueror's through Christ's power and love. Ever evolving and ministering the gospel of Christ to all those we come in contact to. Either by our example or the very words we speak. Being living stones which can lead others to the work of the Cross and the love of God in Christ Jesus.

## **Faith Comes By Hearing The Word.**

### **Romans 10:17**

*17 So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. \**

Remember to always feed your spirit on the Word of God. It will build up your holy faith, and encourage you in your everyday Christian walk. For we are a three part being, body, soul and spirit. The body or flesh needs natural food and water to sustain it. The soulish realm, which is the mind and will or emotions needs spiritual bread ( the Word ) and water ( the Holy Spirit ) to maintain it. The spirit man needs an everyday anointing of God's Holy Spirit and the very presence of the One Jesus so that we express Jesus to others and not we ourselves. He must increase and my will or desires must be subject to His Lordship and Love.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

*23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound\* and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Compare with Dichotomy**

The teaching that the human consists of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. The two entities SOUL and SPIRIT are carefully distinguished in both Old and New Testaments. The word SOUL translated from NEPHESH in Hebrew and PSYCHE in Greek represents the living principle of the body, and is shared by man and the animals. On the fifth day of creation, as God created animal life in the oceans, and birds, He designated them as having "life" (Gen. 1:20), or NEPHESH. On the sixth day, "Man became a living SOUL" (Gen. 2:7) as well. The soul refers to desires and appetites both of the flesh and the mind, perhaps summed up by the word "consciousness." Plants, while alive in the biological sense, are not conscious (this may also be true for certain other "lower" organisms classified as animals by modern biology), and therefore not alive in the Biblical sense, nor does their death imply Biblical "death." The SPIRIT is quite different. God Himself "breathed into (man's) nostrils the breath (RUACH) of life" (Gen. 2:7), thereby imparting only to mankind some measure of His own spiritual nature. It is noteworthy, that while God identified as "Spirit" (John 4:24, Greek PNEUMA), nowhere is He identified as "soul." He stands separate from mere beings, not driven by the same desires as animals and man. The spirit, then, is the recreated "image of God" (Gen. 1:27) in man, separating us from animals, while bonding us to God. This spiritual side makes possible an earthly life in tune with God and an eternal life as a son of God. *Source Unknown*

## **Disciples make Disciples, Or Reproduce Other Disciples.**

### **MT 28:19,20**

*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. '\**

### **Shoe Manufacturer**

Picture a large manufacturing plant in your town or city that produces shoes. The management has invested great sums of money and many man-hours into the plant to produce the finest shoes possible. Money has been spent on salaries for the employees, machinery for shoe making, and materials from which the shoes are to be made. The plant is now in operation with hundreds of workers scurrying to and fro. Machines are running full blast, and activity is at a maximum. One day the president asks the production manager, 'How many shoes have we produced so far?'

'None," the manager answers.

'None?" the president exclaims. 'How long have we been in operation?'

'Two years."

'Two years? And still no shoes?'

'That's right," the manager says, 'No shoes, but we are really busy. In fact, we have been so busy that we are all nearly tired out. We've been very active at our jobs.'" The management would probably be very concerned, fire somebody, try to find out what the problem was. If we now put a cross on top of that building and transform it into the church on the corner, your church, we find much activity going on. Men and women are working hard. The budget is higher this year than ever before. The objective, however, is to produce disciples. Has all that money and man-hour in your church gone into the production of disciples for Jesus Christ? *The Lost Art of Disciple Making, LeRoy Eims, p. 59*