

Disciples are made not born

Who is a Disciple?

What is the basis of Disciple making?

Jesus called His disciples together following His resurrection:

But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And when Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:16-20).

This is when Jesus' disciples received the Great Commission.

A casual observance of this text reveals that there is only one verb

– **make disciples.**

The rest of the words seem to be verbs but are only participles, verb modifiers.

"Go" – 'while you're going' or 'having gone'

"baptizing" –

"teaching" –

Discipleship is the process of becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the outward testimony that pictures our identification with Jesus.

Teaching is process of learning for all believers. (Matt. 11:28-30.)

The apostles were obedient; they worshiped Jesus when they saw Him, and some of them were doubtful. A few weeks before they were eye-witnesses to Jesus' crucifixion – they had watched him die. The One they had hoped would deliver Israel as Messiah. On the third day after his death they saw Jesus alive. Now the resurrected Jesus is giving them marching orders before His departure. Imagine their sense of being were overwhelmed

They were confused and commissioned...

Imagine that you were building a house with a totally unskilled crew.

How would you do it?

If we changed the circumstances a bit to a survival setting, so that it is no longer a want but an absolute need, now how would you build a house?

Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state, said,
 “What’s causing so much disharmony among the nations is the fact that
 some want to beat the big drum, few are willing to face the music and
 none want to play second fiddle.”

Model of Disciple making: Jesus’ Dream Team

A disciple and the Word

A disciple and the Work

A disciple of the Wonder

In order for a church to function a necessity is to have head, hands, and heart working together.

I. The Word and a Disciple

A disciple is a product of the Word.

“Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue
 in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know
 the truth, and the truth will make you free.’” (John 8:31-32).

How do we become disciples? By abiding in the Word of God.

To abide (meno) is to be at home with, to remain.

- We must be at home in the Word and the Word at home in us.

If we think of the Word of God as anything less than food and nourishment, we do
 ourselves a great injustice and end with spiritual malnutrition.

Either we feed on the Word of God or remain spiritual babies who won’t grow up,
 childish instead of childlike.

A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks; a heart through which Christ
 loves; a voice through which Christ speaks; a hand through which Christ helps.

When Paul wrote to the believers at Thessalonica he said they

“...received the word of God ... not as the word of men,
 but for what it really is, **the word of God**,
 which also performs its work in you who believe.” (1 Thess. 2:13)

Peter said,

“...for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but
 imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”
 (1 Pet. 1:23)

“... like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,
 so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...” (1 Peter 2:2).

When Paul wrote to Timothy he included insight into his salvation and discipleship by the Scriptures.

“You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Through the Word of God we become disciples, mature in Christ

- 1). We receive wisdom for salvation;
- 2). We know what truth;
- 3). We learn what is wrong and how to make it right;
- 4). We get on the path of righteousness.

Phillips Version:

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the faith and correcting error, for re-setting the direction of a man’s life and training him in good living. The Scriptures are the comprehensive equipment of the man of God, and fit him fully for all branches of his work.

The work of a disciple is duplicating Christ’s followers.

II. The Work of a Disciple

Jesus never commissioned His apostles to go and make converts, but disciples. A disciple is a follower of Christ who trains others to be Christ followers.

Disciple – mathatas – disciplined learner – as they had been to Christ, so they are to be to others. A disciple learns so he can teach.

Paul wrote to Timothy,

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim. 2:1-2).

Discipleship is much like apprentice programs in the trades.

A combination of education and practical experience produces a journeyman.

Med students complete four years of schooling, and then serve another four years as a medical intern, learning to apply what they have learned in practicum. If they become specialists, an addition four years of specific learning and practice must be completed. From then on they practice medicine on people.

In any field the same principle of discipleship is applied, ministry included. Leadership and learning are a continual process.

Anyone who has had the privilege of raising a child knows that there is more to child rearing than giving birth. Both should be called 'labor'.

Paul wrote that true doctrine is that which agrees...

"...with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness..." (1 Tim. 6:3)

The Phillips version re-states this verse,

"This is the sort of thing you should teach ... sound teaching (which we base on Christ's own words and which leads to Christ-like living)"

As important as it is to know the word, It is also important to obey it.

Jesus gave a parable applying this concept.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it have been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall."

(Matt. 7:24-27).

Knowledge without obedience is foolishness.

Obedience is the proof of true commitment to Christ.

As we know the word of God and purpose to live in obedience to it, we recognize that it is not a work we do but God in us, working through us.

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6).

Speaking of their obedience Paul writes,

“...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

(Phil. 2:12-13).

A disciple realizes that he is saved by grace through faith and not by works.

A disciple is a work of God in process, saved for the purpose of doing good works.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith
and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God;

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**,
which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

(Eph. 2:8-10)

Salvation is:

A gift of God

God’s work

Received by grace through faith

Salvation is not:

A result of works

From us

Works are a result of salvation

III. The Wonder that fills a Disciple

The Wonder of the disciple speaks of his heart.

It’s the “Why” of what we do.

In His letter to the church at Ephesus Jesus said,

“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My names sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” (Rev. 2:2-3).

Doctrine, good deeds, even good behavior can become loveless, dry duty.

Ephesus had fallen from it’s greatness and needed to repent of working without passion or love. They had lost their wonder.

A disciple is filled with wonder of God’s surprises.

...experiencing Christ, even in suffering.

...but though our outer man is decaying,
yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
For momentary, light affliction is producing for us
an eternal weight of glory far beyond comparison...”
(2 Cor. 4:16-17)

Disciples lives in constant awe and wonder at the work of God in their lives.

They revel in the glories God has prepared for His children.

Charles Wesley penned the lyrics of *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*: (Vs. 4)

Finish then Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.