

MARTIN DE LANGE

MAKING DISCIPLES



WHO MAKE DISCIPLES



A practical guide to securing
the future of the church

Making Disciples Who Make Disciples

- A Practical Guide to Securing the Future of the Church

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Thank you to my dear wife for the many cups of tea you brought me and for the ongoing encouragement to finish this project that has been in my heart for so long.



*Martin and Petro have been married since 1988.
They have three adult children and a daughter-in-law.
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About the Author

The author has been sharing the Gospel with Turkish people since 1993. He gained extensive experience in the Turkish language and culture and was directly involved in planting churches in the southeast of Turkey. These churches were planted in Mersin, Tarsus and Malatya respectively.

Due to increasingly difficult political challenges in Turkey and mounting pressure on the protestant church, the author was deported with his family, back to his home country of South Africa.

The mission agency Operation Mobilisation, with which the author has been affiliated since 1993, invited him to start an outreach and church-planting project among the Turkish-speaking people living in France. Since 2012 he and his wife have been living in France. They were involved in the planting of several churches among Turkish-speaking people in France.

The nearly 1 million Turks living in France present an opportunity for the local church to share the Gospel of Jesus with them. The author's comprehensive experience in missions and church planting among Turkish Muslim people, combined with his knowledge of both the Turkish and French languages and cultures, puts him in a unique position to share his extensive experience with the reader.

Martin and his wife Petro have been involved in discipling new believers since 1993. Through the years he gained experience and developed his style and approach to discipling new believers.

He holds a Dip Theology (1993) degree from the Theological Seminary of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa, a BA (Hons) in Theology (2014) from the University of the North-West and a Master of Arts in Missiology (2019) from the University of the North-West.



Introduction

By the grace of God, the ministry in which we have been involved among the Turkish-speaking people here in France, and also in greater Europe, has developed to the point where the churches planted over the years are now functioning and growing autonomously. Each of the different churches has its own leadership team in place, its own meeting venue, and they are all completely self-sufficient.

This is a great encouragement to any church planter and is the fruit of our training and mentoring of the various church leaders. My wife and I have invested many hours in training, visiting, mentoring, and praying with these leaders and their wives. We have had to travel long distances and stay in many different locations to spend time with the various Turkish-speaking leaders.

On our journey, time and time again, we have seen how vital it is to focus on making disciples who can, in turn, make more disciples. Over the years, our approach has always been to present truths that the leaders themselves could replicate and use to equip others. At times, this meant stepping back and allowing them, as leaders, to make mistakes and learn from them.

If you want to plant churches, you need to make disciples who will make other disciples—and this can sometimes be a messy process. In ministry, we discovered that there is not always a clear-cut model or one-size-fits-all approach. However, we did find that certain common elements are essential in the discipleship journey. These elements can be conveyed in any appropriate way that suits the person being discipled.

It is important to mention that this book – or perhaps more accurately, this manual – is a compilation of various resources that I have encountered and used in ministry of discipling new believers. I have been greatly influenced by the work of Christopher Adsit. His book, *Disciplemaking: A Step-by-Step Guide for Leading a Christian from New Birth to Maturity*, has been

an invaluable resource on my journey. Much of the material in this manual is drawn from his work.

I have also been influenced by the *Four Fields Church Planting Model* developed by Nathan Shank, a missionary with the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention. He began using and teaching the model during his church planting work in South Asia, particularly in India, in the early 2000s.

I have also used material from my book *Thrive: 7 Principles to an Impactful Life*.

I wrote this manual in early January 2025, just after my wife underwent major back surgery, and I needed to care for her at home. I relied heavily on the use of artificial intelligence (AI), using the ChatGPT platform to help compile this manual. This allowed me to achieve more in a shorter time, and also to work simultaneously on the Afrikaans translation of the manual.

I need to give credit where credit is due, and I want to reiterate that this manual is a compilation of various materials that have helped me disciple new believers over the years.

This manual is not to be sold under any circumstances. It has been created solely to help believers equip and disciple others towards maturity in Christ.

The manual is divided into three parts:

Part 1, with its five chapters, focuses on the Biblical foundation of discipleship, and the person and character of the disciple-maker. It concludes with a look at the different learning styles, which form the foundation of making disciples who make disciples.

Part 2 deals with the practical nuts and bolts of making disciples. Here, I provide a practical framework for structuring each lesson with supporting Bible verses. In my opinion and experience, after many years of disciple-making, the first element that must be established in a new believer is the

“Assurance of Salvation” (Chapter 6). I would therefore encourage you, the reader, to make this your initial focus as you begin the discipling journey with a new believer. Establishing this foundation is crucial—it is from this base that the rest of the spiritual house is built. Feel free to create your own framework as you journey with your disciple. In my experience, the “fill-in-the-blank” lesson format has not proved effective.

Part 3 concludes the manual by offering practical guidance on celebrating Holy Communion in a small group setting. I provide a brief guide on preparing a new believer for baptism and also share a practical approach to conducting a small group meeting. These are all methods that I have used throughout my ministry in establishing small groups and even planting new churches. They have been tried, tested, and proven over the years, and have served as helpful tools and guides.

I trust that, as you embark on this journey, you will be encouraged to invest your life in another person—to help them grow in faith and in their understanding of God.

May your faith be strengthened, and may you witness the power of God at work as you begin this journey.



 PART ***1***

Chapter One

The Biblical Foundation for Making Disciples

I have had the privilege of being in full-time church planting, pastoring, and discipleship service for more than 30 years. The bulk of my experience has been gained while working with Turkish-speaking Muslim background people in both Turkey and France. By the grace of God, I saw the planting and formation of several Turkish-speaking churches.

In my experience, the most crucial element in all of this was the focus on making disciples who will make other disciples. As good Christians, we want to obey the word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in a way that will bring glory to our Lord. We read and study scripture as we train believers that God has sent our way.

As a young Christian, I was not discipled. After encountering God, I confessed my sins, repented from my old ways, was baptised, and started attending our small church's regular services. No one reached out and offered to walk a road with me and teach me the ways of the Lord. For most of my spiritual journey, I was by myself figuring out how to apply the truths that I learned from the Bible to my daily life.

Because of this experience, I felt urged by the Spirit of God to put together a manual explaining my journey and spiritual formation. To create a biblical foundation, I thought it appropriate to examine some key verses from the Bible to encourage us on our journey.

Thinking of disciple-making, the first verse that comes to mind would be:

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This is a familiar portion of Scripture; we will take a moment to unpack it. When reading this verse, I would emphasise “Therefore GO.” My understanding is that this is the central message of the verse, the ultimate focus of Jesus’s words. This was also, in part, the encouragement for me to GO into missions and to the country of Turkey.

The command to GO has an apparent order of things to do, such as making disciples, baptising them, and then teaching them to obey. This is supposed to be the natural sequence of events. When we examine the original Greek text more closely, we find a slightly different emphasis that significantly influences the focus of these two verses. Let us start by identifying the verbs in these verses.

If you have a problem understanding grammar, I feel your pain. Although I can speak four languages, grammar has always been my Achilles heel in understanding a language. A verb would be the action words that tell us what to do. In this case, it would be the words:

1. Go
2. Make disciples
3. Baptise them
4. Teach them

In my previous understanding of these verses, I would follow this sequence of events: I would go to a far country and make disciples. Then, I would baptise them, and of course, once this was accomplished, I would teach them.

When we dive deeper into the original Greek meaning of these verbs, we see a different pattern emerge. One of the facts that surprised me was understanding that there are different kinds of verbs. You have verbs in the passive voice, verbs in the imperative, and so on. Stay with me for a moment, for I understand the confusion; I was there. These different kinds of verbs bring a deeper meaning to our text.

In the original text, the word GO, as we find it in Matthew 28:19, is translated from the word πορευθέντες “poreuthentes”. It is a verb in the

Aorist¹ Participle Passive² form, meaning “as you are going/to travel / journey/go/die.”

The word MAKE disciples in the same verse is translated from the Greek word μαθητεύσατε “mathēteusate”, which is a verb in the Aorist Imperative Active³ form with the meaning to become a pupil/ to disciple/ to enrol as a scholar. Please note that this is the only verb in the imperative form; with this, it carries the meaning of a command, unlike the other verbs in verses 19 and 20.

The word BAPTISING them is translated from the Greek word βαπτίζοντες “baptizontes” and is a verb in the Present Participle Active⁴ form with the meaning: submerge, but specifically of ceremonial dipping.

The last word that we are going to look at is the word TEACHING them from the Greek word διδάσκοντες “didaskontes” This is a verb in the Present Participle Active form meaning to teach/direct/admonish.

Looking at the meaning of the words in the original text, we can go ahead and use our creative imagination and translate Matthew 28: 19 and 20 as follows:

Therefore, as you are going, MAKE DISCIPLES, as you are baptising, MAKE DISCIPLES, as you are teaching, MAKE DISCIPLES....

By understanding the meaning of the original Greek words, we realise that these verses focus on the making of disciples, and we can, therefore, conclude that this should be our focus as well.

Making disciples is perhaps the most important activity the newborn

¹ The aorist describes an event as a complete action rather than one that was ongoing, unfolding, repeated, or habitual.

² Participles may also be identified with a particular voice: active or passive. In English, the present participle is essentially an active participle, while the past participle has both active and passive uses.

The following examples illustrate this:

I saw John eating his dinner. (Here eating is an active present participle).

The bus has gone. (Here gone is an active past participle).

The window was broken with a rock. (Here broken is a passive past participle)

³ Aorist Active Imperative tense means the action that the verb is describing is the result of something that happened in the past and it gives rise to the action that you are commanded to take in the present.

⁴ The present active participle is often translated as the “-ing” form of the verb; for example, “singing”, “laughing”, “praising”, “hearing.”

Christian should be engaged in. You might say that he still needs to learn a lot before he can disciple others, but this is where the difference in approach comes in.

It is my opinion and experience that right from the beginning, the new believer must be disciplined by a mature believer. Still, not just that, he should also be encouraged to share the lessons that he is learning immediately. The attitude should be that of transferring knowledge from the beginning. In my approach, I always ask and encourage the person that I am discipling to commit that he will share what I have taught him with someone else in his circle of influence in the coming days.

This places the responsibility on the person being disciplined always to ensure he understands the concepts and spiritual truths being shared with him so that he can share them with someone else. This is the start of making disciples who will make disciples.

The following is a list of verses from the New Testament that encourage us on the subject of discipleship. Have a look at these different verses and hear the heart of Jesus.... (italics mine)

- **Matthew 4:19-20**

“And he said to them, ‘*Follow me*, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Immediately, they left their nets and followed him.”

- **Matthew 10:37-39**

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and *follow me* is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

- **Matthew 16:24**

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and *follow me*.’”

- **Mark 1:17-18**

“And Jesus said to them, ‘*Follow me*, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ And immediately, they left their nets and *followed him*.”

- **Mark 8:34**

“And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and *follow me*.’”

- **Luke 6:40**

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone, when fully trained, will be *like his teacher*.’”

- **Luke 9:23**

“And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and *follow me*.’”

- **Luke 14:25-27**

“Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and *come after me* cannot be my disciple.’”

- **Luke 14:33**

“So therefore, any one of you who does not *renounce all* that he has cannot be my disciple.”

- **John 6:44**

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me *draws him*. And I will raise him up on the last day.”

- **John 8:31-32**

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you *abide* in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

- **John 13:14-17**

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an *example*, that you also should *do just as I have done to you*. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

- **John 13:34-35**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to *love one another*. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

- **Acts 1:8**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will *be my witnesses* in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **Acts 5:42**

“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, *they did not cease teaching and preaching* that the Christ is Jesus.”

- **Acts 11:26**

“And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and *taught* a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”

- **1 Corinthians 11:1**

“Be *imitators* of me, as I am of Christ.”

- **1 Peter 2:21**

“For to this, you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might *follow* in his steps.”

As you study these verses, words like “follow me,” “abide in me,” “imitators,” “witness,” “love one another,” “example,” and “like” come up repeatedly to encourage us to help others follow Jesus.

The Bible encourages us to make disciples and teach others to follow Jesus. The verses mentioned above lay the foundation for the Biblical approach to disciple-making. In my years of experience, I saw that disciples are not picked from trees in the imaginary sense; they are formed and made. This happens through people.

God has chosen to work in and through people. Christian believers are making disciples. It takes other human beings to make disciples. When we look at other human beings, we see a fragile package.

Humans are sinful beings that need to be redeemed by Jesus Himself.

The question that needs to be answered is what kind of people it takes to make disciples?

In the following chapter, we will try and answer these questions.

Personal notes



Chapter Two

The Characteristics of the Disciple-Maker

My wife and I have been living in Europe for several years now. Our calling has been to introduce the Turkish-speaking people living on this continent to the love of Jesus. We have seen several Christian fellowships established by God's grace, and many Turks have accepted this invitation to enter into a relationship with Jesus. We have been fortunate to have seen the fruit of our long journey of labour. These new believers need to be disciplined, and we, as believers in Jesus, are called to make disciples.

Our ancestors came from Europe, and because of different events in history, they ended up on the southern tip of Africa and became part of the country of South Africa. Here in Europe, we like to visit cemeteries and look at the headstones of old graves in the hope of discovering some of our ancestors. We have had no success in this regard so far.

On one of these visits to a cemetery somewhere in the middle of France, the dates on the headstones struck me. I realised that many of the deceased have been dead longer than they had been alive. The vanity and the volatility of our existence touched me. It is true what the Bible says in **Psalm 144:4** that we are like a breath, a passing shadow.

Looking at the soul of man, the Word of God, and God Himself, we see that they all share one commonality: eternity. These three are the only things that have eternal value and existence. God is eternal, His Word is eternal, and so are the souls of men. We should be committed to aligning ourselves with that which has eternal value.

Yet, humans often occupy themselves with things that do not have eternal value. If men's souls are so important, should we not invest our time, energy, and resources to ensure they will pass eternity with God, rather than without Him? To do this requires a special commitment from every Jesus follower. Someone committed to sharing eternal hope and the message of salvation with others is unique.

In a bustling town in the early 20th century, a young man named James was struggling with direction in life. Feeling lost, he wandered into a small church where an elderly pastor named Mr. Thompson greeted him warmly. Mr. Thompson didn't just share sermons from the pulpit—he invited James to his home, shared meals with him, and walked with him through life's ups and downs. Over the next few years, James was transformed, not just by the words of the Bible but by the character and love shown by Mr. Thompson.

This is the heart of disciple-making, a life lived so fully in Christ that it inspires others to follow Him. We will explore eight essential characteristics that every effective Christian disciple-maker must embody.

1. Love

The foundation of all Christian disciple-making is love—not just any love, but the selfless, sacrificial love demonstrated by Christ. A disciple-maker must exhibit this love consistently, ensuring that those they disciple feel valued and cherished. Jesus was an example to His disciples. He served them, washed their feet and said:

John 13:34-35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Love creates an environment where growth and transformation are possible. For example, when a disciple-maker intentionally invests time and care into someone struggling with self-worth or past failures, the disciple can begin to see themselves through the lens of Christ's love. This unconditional acceptance often leads to renewed identity and deeper spiritual growth. Such transformation is a testament to the power of love in creating lasting change. It provides the safety and encouragement necessary for someone to step into their identity in Christ.

“Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions.”

– Amy Carmichael

2. Humility

Effective Christian disciple-makers understand that they are not the story's hero - Christ is. They approach disciple-making with humility, recognising their dependence on God and their need for continual growth. The Bible teaches us to:

Philippians 2:3-4

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

Humility builds trust and allows the disciple-maker to relate to others on a human level. It can manifest in practical actions like admitting mistakes openly, seeking forgiveness when necessary, and prioritising others' needs above one's own. For example, a disciple-maker who acknowledges their spiritual struggles and growth areas creates an atmosphere of transparency and mutual respect. Such vulnerability deepens relationships and models the humility Christ exemplified throughout His ministry. It also encourages disciples to see God as their ultimate source of transformation.

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.”
— C.S Lewis

3. Patience

Spiritual growth is often slow and uneven. Effective disciple-makers understand this and are patient, allowing God to work in His own time. They do not demand perfection but walk alongside their disciples through setbacks and victories. The Bible encourages us to walk in patience as we trust the Holy Spirit to help the person we are discipling to become more Christlike.

Ephesians 4:2

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Patience fosters resilience and persistence in disciples, helping them persevere through challenges without fear of condemnation.

“Patience is not the ability to wait, but how you act while you’re waiting.”

– Joyce Meyer

4. Faithfulness

Faithfulness is a hallmark of a committed disciple-maker. It is demonstrated in their consistency, dedication, and unwavering commitment to God’s Word and His calling.

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

Faithfulness breeds reliability, and it assures disciples that they can depend on their disciple-maker. It also models the faithfulness God demonstrates toward His children.

“Faithfulness requires that we hold fast to the truth and follow through on what God has called us to do.” – John Piper

5. Integrity

Integrity is essential in disciple-making. Effective disciple-makers live a life consistent with their words and teachings. They are transparent and honest, ensuring their actions reflect the truth of the Gospel.

Proverbs 11:3

“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

Integrity builds credibility. Disciples are more likely to trust and follow someone who lives out their faith authentically and consistently.

*“When a man’s life is full of integrity, he leaves behind a lasting influence.”
– Charles Stanley*

6. Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share in the feelings of others. An effective disciple-maker listens well, seeks to understand the struggles and joys of their disciples, and walks with them through life’s challenges.

Romans 12:15

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

Empathy deepens relationships and allows the disciple-maker to minister to the heart, not just the mind. For example, a disciple-maker who takes the time to listen to a disciple’s struggles with patience and understanding, can offer prayers and guidance that feel truly personalised and compassionate. This not only strengthens the bond between them but also creates an environment where spiritual healing and growth are more likely to occur. It also demonstrates the compassionate nature of Christ.

“Empathy is the capacity to think and feel yourself into the inner life of another person.” – Heinz Kohut

7. Teachability

A disciple-maker must also be a disciple. Teachability is the willingness to learn from God, from others, and from life’s experiences. This characteristic ensures continuous growth and prevents stagnation.

Proverbs 9:9

“Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.”

Teachability models humility and openness, creating a culture of learning and mutual growth within the disciple-making relationship. For example, a disciple-maker who remains open to feedback from their disciple can demonstrate a powerful lesson in humility. This openness may inspire the disciple to take their own spiritual learning more seriously, knowing that even their mentor values continuous growth. Such mutual teachability strengthens both individuals in their walk with Christ.

*“Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if He were you.”
– Dallas Willard*

8. Endurance

Endurance is crucial in disciple-making, as the journey of faith often involves trials, setbacks, and opposition. A disciple-maker must persevere in their calling, trusting that God is at work even when progress seems slow. The Bible encourages us in the following way:

Galatians 6:9

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Endurance enables disciple-makers to remain faithful despite challenges. For instance, in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27, we see that Paul’s ministry was marked by hardships, yet he pressed on, encouraging others to do the same.

The journey of disciple-making begins with the heart and character of the disciple-maker. Through love, humility, patience, faithfulness, integrity, empathy, teachability, and endurance, the disciple-maker reflects Christ and creates a safe, transformative environment where others can grow spiritually.

These qualities form the backbone of authentic, Christ-like leadership in discipleship. As we have seen, true disciple-makers live lives of eternal value, investing in the souls of others with grace and truth.

Having explored the essential character traits of an effective disciple-maker, we now turn to the practical aspects of this calling. What does disciple-making look like in daily life, and what challenges might arise in walking alongside others on their faith journey? 

Personal notes

Chapter Three

Practical Issues in the Making of Disciples

Making disciples is central to the mission of the Christian faith. In the Great Commission **Matthew 28:19-20**, Jesus commanded His followers to “make disciples of all nations.” This commission is not merely a suggestion but a life-calling for all believers. Yet, while the directive is simple, the process of making disciples can be challenging and multifaceted. It requires intentional planning, spiritual discernment, and practical wisdom to nurture others in their walk with Christ.

Discipleship is a relational journey, not a one-size-fits-all program. It involves spiritual mentoring that transforms lives, equipping disciples to grow in faith and eventually disciple others. However, successful discipleship does not happen by accident - it takes prayer, preparation, and thoughtful consideration of practical issues. Without a clear framework, even the most well-meaning disciple-maker can experience frustration or inconsistency in the process.

This chapter will unpack the key practical steps in the disciple-making process. Each of these steps has a profound impact on the spiritual growth of the disciple and the health of the relationship between the discipler and the disciple. These points include the importance of prayer, listening to the Holy Spirit, maintaining regular meeting times, creating a comfortable environment, gender-specific discipling, time management, and securing the disciple’s commitment. Why are these particular issues so critical?

- **Prayer** aligns our hearts with God’s will, ensuring we are working under His guidance rather than our own.
- **Listening** to the Holy Spirit allows flexibility and discernment in responding to the disciple’s needs.
- **Regular meetings** foster consistency, helping to build trust and accountability.

- A **comfortable environment** encourages vulnerability, allowing deeper conversations about faith and struggles.
- **Gender-specific discipleship** safeguards relationships and keeps both parties focused on spiritual growth.
- Lastly, **managing time** and mutual commitment ensures that disciple-making remains a priority rather than an afterthought.

By considering and applying each of these practical points, the disciple-maker lays a strong foundation for fruitful discipleship. Ignoring these elements, however, can lead to missed opportunities for growth or even discouragement in both parties. As we delve deeper into these areas, we will also provide real-life examples to illustrate how these principles can be applied. Whether you are a seasoned mentor or just beginning your disciple-making journey, these considerations will help equip you to follow Christ's commission effectively and faithfully.

Let's begin by exploring the role of prayer as the cornerstone of the disciple-making process.

1. The role of prayer in making disciples

A mentor named Sarah prayed daily for her disciple, Anna, who struggled with anxiety. Over time, Anna reported having more peace and confidence as a result of Sarah's intercession. This highlights the transformative power of prayer.

Prayer is foundational to the disciple-making process. Before approaching a new disciple, it is essential to pray for God's guidance. **James 1:5** reminds believers that if they lack wisdom, they should ask God, who will provide it generously. By praying, the discipler can seek divine direction on whom to disciple and how to nurture their spiritual growth.

Prayer for the disciple should also be ongoing. Praying for their spiritual maturity, protection from temptation, and strength during life's challenges is important. Paul exemplifies this in **Colossians 1:9-10**, where he prays for the Colossians to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing

to him.” Consistent prayer creates a spiritual covering for the disciple and invites God’s work into the relationship.

Practical Tip: Create a prayer journal for each disciple. This allows the discipler to track prayer requests, answered prayers, and areas where growth is evident.

2. Listening to the Holy Spirit for guidance

James, a discipler, felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to ask his disciple if he was struggling with bitterness. His disciple admitted to harbouring resentment and was able to begin the process of forgiveness after their discussion.

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the disciple-making process. Jesus promised in **John 14:26** that the Holy Spirit would “teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you.” Discipleship is not a written formula but one that requires sensitivity to the Spirit’s leading. Listening to the Holy Spirit may involve moments of conviction, encouragement, or redirection. For example, the Spirit may prompt the discipler to address specific sins, encourage the disciple in a difficult season, or adjust the study plan to meet the disciple’s immediate needs.

Practical Tip: Develop a habit of silent reflection before and after each meeting with a disciple. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas that need attention or any encouragement that should be shared.

3. Setting a regular meeting time

Mary and her disciple, Linda, met every Wednesday evening for a year. This consistency helped Linda develop the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer, which transformed her spiritual life.

Consistency is crucial in building a strong disciple-making relationship. Meeting at a fixed time each week provides structure and demonstrates both parties’ commitment to the process.

During these meetings, it is essential to:

1. **Read through the Bible together:** Discussing scripture helps the disciple understand God's word and apply it to their life.
2. **Pray together:** Shared prayer deepens spiritual connection and dependence on God.
3. **Discuss personal issues:** The discipler should create a safe space for open conversation about struggles, victories, and questions of faith.

Practical Tip: Set a time that is convenient for both parties and make it a priority. Avoid frequent rescheduling, as it can hinder momentum and trust.

4. Creating a comfortable meeting environment

Tom and his disciple, Kevin, initially met at a busy coffee shop but found it hard to have deep conversations. They switched to meeting at Tom's home, providing a much better open discussion environment.

Choosing the right meeting location is critical. The space should be comfortable, private, and free from distractions, allowing for open and meaningful conversations.

Public places such as coffee shops may be convenient but can limit the depth of conversation due to noise or interruptions. On the other hand, meeting at home or in a church office can provide a quieter and more comfortable atmosphere.

Practical Tip: Ask the disciple where they would be most comfortable meeting. Ensure the location is conducive to both study and prayer, with minimal distractions.

5. Gender-specific discipleship

Lisa, a youth leader, was approached by a young man seeking discipleship. Instead of taking on the role herself, she connected him with a trusted male mentor to ensure healthy boundaries.

It is wise to disciple individuals of the same gender. Men discipling men and women discipling women helps guard against temptation and potential misunderstandings.

Paul warns in **1 Corinthians 10:12**, “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.” Similarly, **2 Timothy 2:22** advises believers to “flee youthful passions.”

By keeping discipling relationships gender-specific, boundaries are respected, and both parties can focus on spiritual growth without the risk of compromising situations.

Practical Tip: If approached by someone of the opposite gender, kindly direct them to a trusted leader of their own gender for discipling.

6. Time management in disciple-making

Rachel, a busy working mother, used a digital calendar to block out one evening each week for discipleship. She treated it as a non-negotiable appointment and ensured that her disciple, Emma, received consistent attention.

Effective time management ensures that disciple-making remains a priority despite life’s demands. Two renowned authors provide valuable insights:

- **Stephen Covey (“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”)** emphasizes prioritising that which is important rather than what is urgent. He introduces the concept of “putting first things first,” which can help disciplers prioritise their meetings and spiritual preparation.
- **John Maxwell (“Today Matters”)** stresses the importance of daily disciplines. Consistent small actions, such as regular study and prayer with the disciple, lead to long-term spiritual growth.

Practical Tip: Use a planner or digital calendar to block out disciple-making time. Treat it as a non-negotiable appointment.

7. Securing the disciple’s commitment

Jacob and his disciple, Ben, created a written agreement outlining their meeting times and goals. This helped Ben stay committed and accountable, leading to significant spiritual growth.

Disciple-making requires a mutual commitment. The disciple should be willing to meet regularly, study scripture, and apply spiritual lessons to their life. Without this commitment, progress may be slow or inconsistent.

It is helpful to discuss expectations early on. Clarify the goals of discipleship and the importance of showing up consistently and engaging fully in the process.

Practical Tip: Create a simple discipleship agreement that outlines meeting frequency, expectations, and goals. This provides clarity and sets a standard for both parties.

8. Guarding against temptation

David, a discipler, implemented regular accountability checks with a fellow mentor to ensure that he stayed vigilant in his relationships and avoided compromising situations.

Scripture frequently warns believers to guard against sin. In addition to keeping discipling relationships gender-specific, both disciplers and disciples should be vigilant in resisting temptation.

1 Peter.5:8 cautions believers to “be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” **Galatians 6:1** advises those who guide others to “keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.”

Practical Tip: Regularly discuss accountability with the disciple. Encourage them to share their struggles and victories to build transparency and trust.

9. Teaching transferable principles

A discipler named Paul taught his disciple, Chris, simple but profound principles such as how to study scripture, pray intentionally, and rely on the Holy Spirit. Paul encouraged Chris to immediately share what he learned with his small group. Over time, Chris became a discipler himself, passing down the same principles to others, creating a chain of discipleship that extended beyond Paul's initial efforts.

One of the key elements of disciple-making is ensuring that everything taught is transferable. The goal is not just to nurture one individual but to empower that person to go and disciple others. This follows the biblical principle of multiplication, which Paul outlined in 2 Timothy 2:2: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

From the outset, the disciple should understand that they are expected to pass on what they have learned. This mindset fosters a commitment to spiritual growth and creates a ripple effect, ensuring that the teachings are not contained but continue to spread. Transferability ensures sustainability in discipleship. A disciple who not only absorbs the teachings but also commits to sharing them ensures that the Great Commission is fulfilled through a continuous cycle.

Practical steps to foster transferability:

1. **Clarify expectations from the start:** From the first meeting, explain that part of discipleship is equipping them to disciple others.
2. **Simplify teachings:** Teach simple, reproducible principles. Complicated teachings can be difficult to pass on.
3. **Practice sharing:** Encourage the disciple to practice sharing what they are learning with friends, family, or small groups. This builds confidence and solidifies their understanding.

Practical tip: Use role-play scenarios where the disciple practices explaining spiritual concepts. This helps build both confidence and competence in passing down the principles.

Transferable teaching also keeps the discipler focused on simplicity and clarity. When we teach with the intention of empowering others to teach, it ensures that the message remains grounded, understandable, and applicable. In doing so, we fulfil Jesus’ call to create disciples who, in turn, create more disciples—expanding God’s kingdom through faithful obedience to His Word.

To summarize, here are the six most critical practical issues in disciple-making:

1. **Prayer:** Seek God's guidance and cover the disciple in prayer.
2. **Holy Spirit guidance:** Listen attentively to the Spirit for direction and discernment.
3. **Regular meetings:** Establish a consistent time for Bible study, prayer, and discussion.
4. **Gender-specific discipleship:** Ensure discipling relationships remain gender-specific to avoid temptation.
5. **Time management:** Prioritise disciple-making through effective scheduling and mutual commitment.
6. **Transferable teaching:** Ensure that everything that is taught remains simple, clear, and designed to be passed on. Empower the disciple to share these principles with others from the start.

By focusing on these practical issues, disciplers can create an environment where spiritual growth thrives. Discipleship is not just a program but a journey of transformation that honours Christ's call to make disciples. Transferability, in particular, ensures the ongoing cycle of disciple-making that fulfils the Great Commission.

The discipler must focus on engaging the disciple on all three of the relational platforms. This encourages the disciple to be part of a local church and attend regular gatherings, integrating the disciple into a small group that gathers regularly and weekly for one-on-one meetings with the disciple. This will ensure a balanced integration with other believers who can positively influence the disciple. 

Personal notes

Chapter Four

The Making of Disciples: Unpacking the Three Pillars

Discipleship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is the process of nurturing others in their faith and helping them to grow into mature followers of Christ. Throughout His ministry, Jesus modelled the importance of walking closely with others to help them understand and apply God's truth in everyday life. To do this effectively, we focus on three essential pillars:

Prayer, Relationship, and Content. Let's explore each pillar with relevant Scripture and practical examples for application.

1. Prayer

Prayer is the foundation of any discipleship effort. It invites the Holy Spirit to work by softening hearts and guiding both the disciple and the mentor. Here are three key verses that emphasize the power of prayer in making disciples:

- **Colossians 4:2** “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
- **James 5:16** “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
- **Matthew 9:37-38** Then He said to his disciples: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

Practical Application:

1. **Pray for guidance:** Before engaging in discipleship, pray for wisdom and discernment about who you are to disciple and how to lead them.
2. **Intercede for the disciple:** Regularly lift your disciple up in prayer. For example, pray for them to grow in faith and overcome life's challenges.
3. **Teach prayer:** Encourage your disciple to develop their own prayer

life by modelling prayer, praying together, and teaching them how to pray in different situations.

Sarah mentors a young believer, Alexis. She begins each discipleship session with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide their conversation. She also encourages Alex to keep a prayer journal to record prayers and reflect on God's answers over time.

2. Relationship

Discipleship is deeply relational. Jesus Himself spent significant time, building relationships with his disciples, sharing meals and walking and talking with them daily. Here are three verses that underscore the importance of relationships in discipleship:

- **John 13:34-35** “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
- **1 Thessalonians 2:8** “Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”
- **Proverbs 27:17** “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Practical Application:

- 1. Spend Time Together:** Quality time is essential for building trust and for vulnerability to happen. This may include sharing meals together, attending events, or simply just being present.
- 2. Be Authentic:** Share your own faith journey honestly, including your struggles and victories. This transparency helps disciples feel at ease to open up about their own challenges.
- 3. Offer Support:** Be there for your disciple in practical ways—whether it's helping with a personal need, celebrating milestones, or just listening when they need to vent about something.

David builds a strong relationship with his disciple John, by meeting weekly for coffee and studying the Bible together. Over time, John opens up about his struggles concerning anxiety. Because of the trust David has built with John, he is able to offer biblical encouragement and prayer.

3. Content

Content refers to the truths of Scripture and essential teachings of the Christian faith. Jesus taught his disciples through parables, sermons, and personal conversations, ensuring they were grounded in truth. Here are three verses that highlight the importance of sound teaching:

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
- **Matthew 28:19-20** “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.”
- **Psalms 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

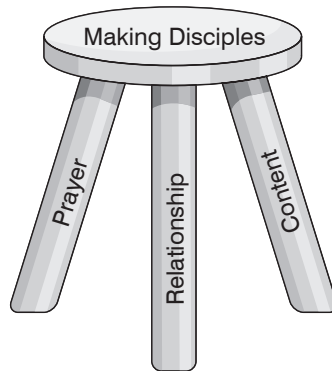
Practical Application:

1. **Bible study:** Regularly study Scripture together. Choose passages that address both spiritual growth and practical life issues.
2. **Teach core doctrines:** Ensure your disciple understands Christian beliefs such as salvation, grace, faith, and obedience.
3. **Memorize scripture:** Encourage your disciple to memorize key Bible verses that can guide and comfort them in their daily life.

Maria leads a small discipleship group for young adults. She develops a curriculum that includes studying the life of Jesus, discussing the fruits of the Spirit, and learning how to apply Scripture to real-world situations. Maria also encourages group members to memorize a verse each week and then share on how it had impacted their week.

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Making disciples is a holistic process that involves prayer, **relationship-building**, and **content delivery**. By relying on the Holy Spirit through prayer, fostering deep and genuine relationships, and grounding disciples in Biblical truth, we can fulfil Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations. As we invest in others with intention and love, we help them grow into mature followers of Christ who, in turn, can disciple others.



We can think of these pillars as part of a 3 legged stool. It is equally important and carries the weight of *Making Disciples who make disciples*.

Based on this foundation, it is important to transfer the information in the best way. It is therefore important to be aware that every person has a different style of acquiring and absorbing information, and we need to be conscious of the different learning styles that exist so that we can convey information in the most effective way. In the next chapter, we will take a look at the different learning styles. 

Personal notes

Chapter Five

Different Learning Styles: Linear and Spiral Learning

Christianity encompasses more than simply acquiring knowledge; it also involves deepening one's faith and applying God's truths to everyday life. Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of growth in faith, learning, and spiritual maturity. Teaching and mentoring believers—whether new converts or seasoned Christians—require an approach that nurtures both understanding and the application of biblical principles.

Education has significantly evolved over the years, incorporating various instructional approaches to accommodate diverse learning needs. One of the most widely studied aspects of education is the concept of learning styles, which suggests that individuals absorb, process, and retain information differently. These differences necessitate distinct teaching methods to maximise educational effectiveness. Two prominent approaches to learning are **linear learning** and **spiral learning**, each with its unique structure and benefits.

Linear learning follows a continuous path, progressing step by step without revisiting previous concepts. In contrast, spiral learning revisits topics repeatedly, reinforcing and expanding upon them with increased complexity. This chapter will explore various learning styles, compare linear and spiral learning, and evaluate which method is more effective in fostering long-term knowledge retention and deeper understanding.

Understanding learning styles

Learning styles refer to the different ways individuals prefer to acquire and process information. The most widely recognised theories categorise learners into the following types:

1. Visual learners – prefer diagrams, charts, and images.
2. Auditory learners – learn best through listening and verbal discussions.

3. Kinesthetic or physical learners retain information more effectively through hands-on experiences.
4. Hands-on learners – absorb information best through written texts and note-taking.

Theories such as Kolb's Experiential Learning Theory and Gardner's Multiple Intelligences Theory, which suggest that learning styles are more intricate and contextual, are also important.

However, regardless of individual preferences, the structure of content delivery – whether linear or spiral learning – plays a crucial role in shaping educational outcomes.

Let us take a closer look at the 2 different styles.

Linear learning

Linear learning follows a progressive sequence, introducing new information only after mastering prior content. This model is commonly observed in traditional education systems, where subjects are taught in a structured manner without frequently reviewing earlier material.

Advantages of linear learning

1. Clear Structure – concepts are presented in a systematic order, ensuring that learners do not feel overwhelmed.
2. Predictability – allows students to anticipate what comes next, helping to reduce anxiety and enhance focus.
3. Efficient for specific subject areas such as mathematics, programming, and procedural tasks benefit from a linear progression, where foundational knowledge is crucial before moving forward.
4. Short-term mastery encourages a thorough understanding of topics before progressing, which can be advantageous for standardised testing.

Disadvantages of linear learning

1. Forgetting previously learned material – since past topics are rarely revisited, learners might forget earlier concepts.
2. Difficulty adjusting to new challenges – if students find one section challenging, they may have trouble keeping up since the system does not allow for revision or reinforcement.
3. Lack of contextual understanding – information may be learned in isolation, lacking connections to real-world applications.
4. Limited engagement for some learners: not all students thrive in a rigid, sequential learning model, particularly those who benefit from a more interactive or holistic approach.

Spiral learning: revisiting and reinforcing concepts

Spiral learning, first introduced by Jerome Bruner, is a method in which students revisit topics at **increasing levels of complexity** over time. Instead of mastering a subject in one go, learners are gradually exposed to key concepts, which are reinforced and expanded upon with each cycle.

Advantages of spiral learning

1. Better retention of knowledge – regular exposure to previously learned material helps reinforce understanding and reduces memory loss.
2. Encourages deeper learning – revisiting topics at more advanced levels promotes critical thinking and real-world application.
3. Catering to different learning paces – students who struggle initially get multiple opportunities to grasp the material.
4. Flexibility and adaptability – the approach accommodates diverse learning styles and allows students to make connections between different concepts.

Disadvantages of spiral learning

1. It can feel repetitive – some students may find revisiting topics tedious if they have already grasped the content.

2. Risk of shallow understanding – if not implemented well, early exposure to complex concepts without deep engagement might lead to superficial learning.
3. More challenging to implement – requires careful curriculum design to ensure that each learning cycle builds effectively on the previous one.

Comparing linear and spiral learning

Knowledge retention and recall

Studies suggest that students forget much of what they learn unless they revisit the material. Linear learning, which does not incorporate regular revision, often results in students forgetting earlier topics. In contrast, spiral learning ensures repeated exposure, strengthening memory retention and recall.

Engagement and motivation

Linear learning can be effective for highly structured and self-disciplined students, but it may disengage learners who struggle to keep up. By allowing multiple opportunities to engage with the material, Spiral learning fosters greater motivation and interest, particularly for subjects that require deep understanding, such as sciences and humanities.

Application to different subjects

- Mathematics and Sciences – spiral learning is particularly beneficial in these areas, as students often struggle with abstract concepts that require reinforcement over time.
- Languages – spiral learning supports language acquisition, as vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension skills develop best through repeated exposure.
- History and Social Sciences – a spiral approach enables students to see historical patterns and understand complex societal issues more integratedly.

Adaptability to different learners

Linear learning assumes that all students progress at the same pace, which can be problematic for those who need extra time. Spiral learning provides a more flexible approach, catering to individual learning speeds and allowing for differentiated instruction.

Context-dependent effectiveness

The effectiveness of linear or spiral learning largely depends on the subject matter, learner characteristics, and educational goals. A linear approach may be more effective for foundational knowledge requiring a clear progression (such as learning coding syntax or solving algebraic equations). However, spiral learning is generally superior for subjects requiring deeper conceptual understanding and long-term retention.

Hybrid approaches

A combination of linear and spiral methods may offer the most effective learning experience. For example:

- **A linear structure** can be used to introduce foundational knowledge.
- **A spiral approach** can then reinforce and expand upon these concepts over time.

This blended strategy ensures students gain structured learning while benefiting from repetition and deeper engagement.

The value of spiral learning in discipleship and Christian principles

The spiral learning approach aligns well with discipleship, allowing believers to continually revisit, reinforce, and deepen their understanding of key doctrines and principles over time.

Why spiral learning is effective in Christian discipleship

1. Biblical principles require ongoing reflection and growth

The Bible demonstrates a spiral approach to learning, where themes like

grace, love, obedience, and redemption are introduced early and expanded upon throughout Scripture.

For example, Jesus' teachings in the Gospels often introduce fundamental truths in parables and revisit them in greater depth as His disciples mature in their faith. Similarly, the Apostle Paul's letters frequently reinforce earlier teachings while adding new layers of understanding.

2. Preventing superficial faith

A linear approach to discipleship might result in shallow faith, where individuals quickly move from one doctrine to another without fully integrating it into their lives. Spiral learning, however, ensures that Christians consistently engage with key principles, allowing for deeper reflection, greater spiritual maturity, and stronger faith.

For instance, a new believer might first learn about the concept of **grace** as God's undeserved favour. Over time, as they revisit this topic, they may understand its implications in forgiveness, spiritual humility, and daily Christian life.

3. Addressing different maturity levels in faith

Discipleship groups often consist of individuals at different stages of their faith journey. A linear teaching model assumes that all believers learn at the same pace, leaving some struggling to keep up while others feel unchallenged. In contrast, a spiral approach allows for:

- New believers to grasp foundational truths.
- Growing believers to deepen their knowledge and application.
- Mature believers to refine their understanding and mentor others.

This method mirrors the approach of Jesus with His disciples, gradually revealing deeper truths as they grew in faith and understanding.

4. Application of Christian principles in daily life

Spiritual growth is not about merely **knowing** biblical principles but **living them out**. Spiral learning reinforces real-life application by revisiting core teachings at different life stages and circumstances.

For example:

- A young Christian may first understand prayer as a way to talk to God.
- Later, they may learn about intercessory prayer, seeking God's will and praying for others.
- Over time, they may develop a deeper prayer life, incorporating fasting, spiritual discernment, and worship.

By revisiting these truths with increasing depth, believers grow in wisdom, faithfulness, and obedience.

Examples of spiral learning in discipleship

1. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus commands His followers to make disciples, teach, and baptise them. Discipleship is a continuous process—new converts are taught foundational truths, but as they mature, they are called to teach others, reinforcing their learning.

2. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

A believer may first learn about love, joy, and peace as Christian virtues. As they grow, they revisit these principles and learn how to develop them in trials, relationships, and spiritual battles.

3. The parables of Jesus

Jesus often taught in parables, allowing His audience to grasp simple truths first and understand deeper meanings as they grew spiritually (e.g., the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13).

Linear and spiral learning approaches each have their strengths and limitations. While linear learning provides a clear and structured progression, it may lead to gaps in knowledge retention. Spiral learning, on the other hand, reinforces concepts through repeated exposure, promoting deeper understanding and adaptability.

Research and educational practices suggest that spiral learning is generally more effective for fostering long-term retention and critical thinking.



PART 2

Chapter Six

Assurance of Salvation

Objective

In this chapter, we will focus on how to assist the disciple in making sure that he has honestly asked Christ to enter his life by confirming with him that:

Christ has indeed come into his life, and that:

- he has been reborn as a whole new creation;
- all his sins—past, present and future—have been forgiven;
- a new relationship has been established between him and God;
- he will never again be separated from God.

Biblical basis

Scripture clearly teaches that God wants us to know we are saved. There is no need to doubt, and with the question resolved once and for all in the new convert's mind, he can go about the business of growing in Christ and becoming an effective ambassador of God.

The following are some verses from the Bible to lay the foundation for this subject:

Ephesians 1:13-14	1 Peter 1:1-9	John 3:16-18
1 John 4:15-17	John 6:51	Acts 16:31
John 17:1-3	Romans 10:13	Hebrews 7:24-25
Colossians 1:12-14	1 Peter 1:23	John 5:24
1 John 5:11-13	John 10:27-29	Romans 8:1-3
Acts 10:43	Ephesians 1:4-7	Hebrews 13:5
Colossians 2:13-14	1 John 2:12	John 6:37
Revelation 3:20	John 11:25-26	Romans 8:31-39

A definition for assurance of salvation:

The conviction that, though he was previously lost and separated from

God, he is now redeemed by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and saved for all eternity. He may or may not have had a dramatic experience upon conversion, and he may or may not feel any different, but he has the confidence that Christ has entered his life, has saved him, has re-created him, and will never leave him or forsake him.

The assurance-of-salvation objective is so important that you should make it your goal to cover it as thoroughly as you can, immediately after the new Christian's conversion.

This is the first principle that needs to be established in the believer's life.

Whenever I start on a path of discipling someone, it does not matter whether or not he is a young or an older believer; this principle should be thoroughly established in his life in such a way that he can transfer the information to someone else.

Defuse the “experience bomb”

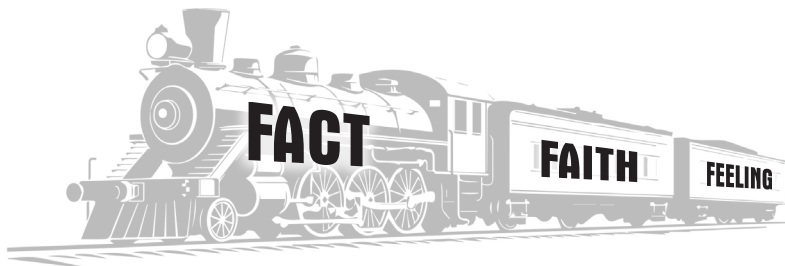


Figure ⁵

The above figure can be used to explain to your disciple the importance of not focusing on the experience but going deeper.

The **engine**, “Fact,” represents what we know to be true based on the Word of God. The **coal car**, “Faith,” signifies our beliefs and confidence in certain truths, which lead to opinions and actions. When we declare we have faith in something, we indicate that we believe it to be true and are willing to act based on that belief. If I assert I have faith that a particular

⁵ Source of image: <https://estherhizsa.com/2014/12/19/encountering-god-in-our-emotions/>

chair will be strong enough to hold me, I won't hesitate to sit down on it. The **wagon**, "Feelings," represents our subjective, emotional sensitivities and impressions.

The train will run with or without the wagon, but it goes nowhere without the locomotive. Also, the train moves only if you shovel coal from the coal car into the engine. In the same way, our Christian lives will move only if we place our faith in the facts of God's Word. Just as the wagon cannot power a train, so your feelings cannot empower or direct your life as a Christian. It doesn't matter how much faith you put in your feelings; they won't get you anywhere. The facts will.

Jesus said in **John 8:32**, "Then you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." David said in **Psalms 119:105**, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path," not my hunches, intuition or feelings.

As you journey with your disciple, it is important to keep in mind that there are five key points that the new Christian needs to grasp:

1. That Christ has indeed come into his life.

Revelation 3:20 states, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Ask the new Christian, "What do you think the 'door' in this verse represents?" (The door of his life—his heart; his will.) "Did you open that door? What does it say He'll do if you open the door?" (Come in.) "So where would you say Jesus is right now?" (Inside of me!) Some people are hesitant to use **Revelation 3:20** to demonstrate that Christ will enter the lives of those who ask Him to; they feel it is being taken out of context. It's true that the verse is contained in a message the Lord sent specifically to the church of Laodicea, and that it's most strict interpretation should be considered in that context, but the idea that is communicated can be found throughout Scripture. It's just that it is most eloquently and simply expressed here.

We know that God is taking the initiative with the unbeliever; He's knocking on the unbeliever's "door" (**Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians**

5:18-20; 1 Peter 3:18). We know that the unbeliever must hear (**John 5:24; Romans 10:17**) and respond (**John 3:16; Acts 16:30-31**), and when he does, Christ will come into his life (**John 1:12; 14:16-17,23; Colossians 1:27**). You might prefer to share all of these verses, or simply share Revelation.3:20 with him and explain about the context later.

2. He has been reborn as a whole new creation.

Share **2 Corinthians 5:17** with your disciple: “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” Ask him what he thinks the verse is talking about when it says he has become a “new creation.” After he’s taken a good stab at it, take him to John 3 and have him read verses 1-8 about the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Explain to him that every person living today has been born into the physical realm, but that one birth wasn’t enough. Since God exists in the spiritual realm, we must also be born into that realm to have fellowship with Him. That occurs when we invite Christ into our lives.

We didn’t have much choice about our first birth, but we had total control of our decision regarding our second birth. You may want to talk about the three-dimensional man. We were all born into this world as two-dimensional, with a body and a mind. We were physical and mental, but when we asked the Spirit of Christ to enter our lives, we gained a third dimension, the spiritual. Until then, it had been impossible for us to relate to God or experience His presence because He existed on a plane we had no access to. When we were born into the spiritual realm, we received the supernatural equipment that makes relating to God possible.

One of the primary ramifications of this fact, and one that we must help the new Christian grasp, is that, since he is now a spiritual being, supernatural power is available to him in the form of the indwelling Spirit of God, which wasn’t there before. He has been changed to the very core of his being.

Help him understand that these differences may not be apparent immediately, but as he matures in Christ, they will become increasingly evident.

You might want to consider sharing some additional verses with him on this subject: Psalm 51:10, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 6:15, Ezekiel 36:26-27, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, Ephesians 2:4-6,10, Acts 1:8, Galatians 2:20 and 2 Timothy 1:7.

3. All his sins – past, present and future – have been forgiven.

Look up each of the passages below and write a summary of them in your notebook. Share one or two of them that speak to you on this subject. Don't overwhelm the poor guy with seven or eight verses; just make your point and move on.

Psalm 32:5	Hebrews 8:12	Isaiah 38:17
Jeremiah 33:8	Psalm 103:12	Ephesians 1:6-7
Hebrews 10:16-17	Acts 10:43	1 John 2:12
Colossians 2:13-14	Isaiah 1:18	Isaiah 43:25
Psalm 103:3	Acts 26:17-18	Ephesians 4:32
Matthew 26:28	1 John 1:9	Revelation 1:5

This question is resolved with simple logic: it's not logical that God would forgive only the sins we have committed up to the point of conversion and then impute all subsequent sins to our account. None of us would make it if that were the case. His forgiveness is timeless (Hebrews 10:12). He sees the entire scope of our sin with one look and lays all of our iniquities on Christ (Isaiah 53:6; 1 Peter 3:18). If He hadn't died for all our sins—past, present and future – He could never “bring us to God.”

There is probably no need to go into all of this with the new convert. I share it mainly for your benefit and just in case he asks.

4. A new relationship has been established between him and God.

This objective covers two bases:

- He needs to know that he was spiritually lost before conversion.
- He needs to know that the reasons behind his being lost are now gone, and things are different between him and God.

He probably has a pretty good grasp of the first point, or he would not have felt a need to be saved. But it's good to suss him out on that subject as you talk—he may see his commitment to Jesus Christ as a nice idea, but not essential for salvation. The second point will probably be a new concept to him. He needs to understand that, far from being an enemy of God and utterly separated from Him, God now looks upon him with incredible favour. The Lord has loved him all along, but now, at long last, He can express that love directly! He now sees the new Christian as a friend, an heir, and a genuine, legitimate son! Check these verses and share one or two with the new convert:

John 1:12; Romans 8:15-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 5:6-8;
Ephesians 2:1-7.

5. He will never again be separated from God.

Jesus told us that He would give those who believed in Him eternal life (Matthew 19:29; John 3:16,36, 5:24, 6:40,47, 10:28, 17:2-3, etc.). The only word that Jesus ever used to describe the kind of life that He would impart to those who belonged to Him was *aionios*, which means “indeterminate as to duration, eternal, everlasting, forever.”

Some try to say it refers not to the quantity (or duration) of life God gives but to the quality. It actually refers to both. J. Guhrt asserts in Brown's Dictionary of New Testament Theology: “The word ‘eternal’ here indicates a definite quality: It is a different life from the old existence typified by hate, lack of love, sin, pain and death. Eternal life does not, therefore, just begin in the future; it is already the possession of those who have entered upon fellowship with Christ. Thus, John 3:15 speaks of having eternal life in the present.

But there is also a temporal sense so that eternal (*aionios*) indicates the quantity of this life: because it belongs to Christ, who Himself is the Life, it has no end. Jesus is eternal, and as long as we stay in Jesus, we have access to eternal life because life is in Jesus and Him alone.”

Jesus said that He would never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), that He would never drive away those who come to Him (John 6:37), and that nothing can snatch His sheep away (John 10:27-28). In those three verses, Jesus says we can't run away, He won't throw us away, and we can't be taken away.

When you were born again, the life you were given came from God (John 1:12-13, 3:5-6). In John's first epistle, he calls Christians "born of God" (1 John 3:9, 4:7, 5:4,18), meaning that they were given life uniquely from God—He "bore" them. We're not merely adopted sons, though some biblical writers use that concept to demonstrate certain aspects of our sonship. In the spiritual realm, we are literal sons and daughters of God, because He gave "birth" to us. That, too, is an unalterable fact of history. 2 Timothy 2:13 says, "If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."

Evaluation

The following are some questions to ask the new convert, after you've had some input, to determine if he does indeed have assurance of his salvation. Don't ask all of them, just one or two that you feel are best suited:

1. If you were to die tonight and stand before God, and He said to you, "Why should I let you into My heaven?" what would you say?
2. If someone were to ask you, "How can I be sure I'm a Christian?" what would you say?
3. What are some things you can do to make yourself worthy of God's love? (Trick question. "Nothing" is the correct answer.)
4. Do you think that you're good enough for God to save you? (Another trick question. "No" is the correct answer. We'll never be good enough to deserve salvation. We are saved only based on God's grace (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5). Well, how good must you be? (We're not saved based on our goodness; it's based on God's grace. The new Christian must firmly grasp this, so keep emphasising it!)

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

5. Draw a line with 0% at one end and 100% at the other end, like this:
- 0% _____ 100%

Ask him to put an X on the line where it would indicate how certain he is that if he were to die tonight, he would go to heaven. If you determine that he still isn't sure of his salvation, try to learn what hinders that conviction and help him overcome that specific barrier.

Following are a few common reasons why people lack this assurance:

- They misunderstand the basis of salvation: grace and undeserved merit. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, and God forgave us. There is nothing we can do to earn it or to lose it.
- They never actually have received Christ personally (or are not sure).
- They are looking for an emotional experience.
- They rely on day-to-day feelings.
- They lack the knowledge that it is God who keeps us.

The principle of Salvation is the most essential tenet to establish in a disciple's life. It might take several meetings and conversations to firmly establish this truth. Take your time; do not rush through this point, for it will form the foundation of the disciple's spiritual life. He must understand that he is completely forgiven. His past, present, and future sins are forgiven, and as long as he remains in Jesus Christ, he has eternal life. 

Personal notes

Chapter Seven

The Four Spiritual Principles of the Christian Life

The Christian life is a journey centred on Jesus, our source of strength, direction, and hope. Imagine this life as a wheel: the hub, representing Jesus, is where all life flows from. Surrounding this hub is the rim, symbolising the Christian life—our actions, attitudes, and experiences. Four essential spiritual principles function as spokes in this wheel: the Word of God, Prayer, Fellowship, and Sharing Your Testimony. Each of these principles is critical to keeping the wheel of Christian life balanced moving forward.

This chapter introduces these principles, illustrating their significance and how they anchor us in our faith. Supporting Bible verses provide a solid scriptural foundation for each principle, demonstrating how God has designed these disciplines to help us grow in spiritual maturity. In the following four chapters, each of these principles will be unpacked and examined in detail to equip your disciples to live a balanced Christian life.

Through the “wheel” illustration, we will see that Jesus is the core of our lives. By faithfully engaging with the four principles, we can live a life that reflects His love, truth, and grace. Let’s explore these essential principles.

1. The Word of God: our foundation for truth

The Word of God—the Bible—is our primary source for knowing God’s truth. It reveals who God is, teaches us how to live, and helps us discern right from wrong. The Bible is described as a lamp to our feet (Psalm 119:105), guiding us through life’s uncertainties. Engaging with Scripture daily nourishes our spirit, shapes our thinking, and strengthens us to stand firm in faith.

Why is the Word of God so vital? Without a strong foundation in God’s truth, we are vulnerable to false teachings and the world’s distractions. Studying Scripture allows us to hear God’s voice, understand His will, and apply His promises in every circumstance.

In the following chapters, we will look at ways to read the Bible and help your disciple attain nourishment through regular daily reading of God's word.

Key Verses:

- Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realise what is wrong in our lives."
- Joshua 1:8 "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night."
- Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful."
- Isaiah 55:11 "It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit."
- Colossians 3:16 "Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives."
- Matthew 4:4 "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."
- Romans 15:4 "Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us."

2. Prayer: Communicating with God

Prayer is our lifeline to God, a two-way conversation in which we talk to Him and listen for His guidance. It strengthens our relationship with Him and helps us stay aligned with His will. In prayer, we express our gratitude, bring our burdens, and seek His wisdom and peace.

Prayer is essential because it draws us into God's presence and enables us to experience His power. Jesus modelled a life of prayer, showing us the importance of consistent, heartfelt communication with the Father. Through prayer, we surrender our worries, seek forgiveness, and intercede for others.

The following chapters will examine a practical 5-point plan for a balanced prayer life. This plan will be presented simply to make it easy to transfer.

Key Verses:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Never stop praying.”
- Philippians 4:6 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.”
- Matthew 6:9-13 “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.”
- Jeremiah 29:12 “In those days when you pray, I will listen.”
- Mark 11:24 “You can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours.”
- James 5:16 “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power.”
- Psalm 145:18 “The Lord is close to all who call on him.”
- Romans 12:12 “Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.”

3. Fellowship: encouragement in community

Fellowship is the practice of gathering with other believers to grow in faith, worship, and mutual encouragement. God designed us for community, knowing that we thrive when we are supported and held accountable by others. Fellowship reminds us that we are not alone in our journey.

Why is fellowship so important? It provides an environment for love, encouragement, and spiritual growth. Through fellowship, we share our joys and burdens, pray for one another, and spur each other on in faith. The early church set an example by meeting regularly and sharing life (Acts 2:42).

Key Verses:

- Hebrews 10:24-25 “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love.”
- Acts 2:42 “All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship.”
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 “Two people are better off than one.”
- 1 John 1:7 “But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship.”

- Romans 12:10 “Love each other with genuine affection.”
- Galatians 6:2 “Share each other’s burdens.”
- Colossians 3:13 “Make allowance for each other’s faults.”
- Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there.”

4. Sharing Your Testimony: Declaring God’s Work In Your Life

Sharing your testimony is telling others what God has done in your life. It is a powerful way to witness God’s love and grace. Your story can inspire faith in others and point them to Jesus. Every believer has a unique testimony that reflects God’s transforming power.

Why is sharing your testimony important? It glorifies God and helps others see He is real and active in our lives. It also strengthens our faith as we remember God’s goodness. When we boldly share our story, we plant seeds of hope and salvation.

The following chapters will examine practical ways to share your faith with others. You can share these simple tools with your disciple to equip him to give his testimony effectively.

Key verses:

- Revelation 12:11 “And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.”
- 1 Peter 3:15 “And if someone asks about your hope, always be ready to explain it.”
- Acts 1:8 “You will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere.”
- Psalm 107:2 “Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!”
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 “So we are Christ’s ambassadors.”
- Mark 5:19 “Go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you.”
- John 15:27 “And you must also testify about me.”
- Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ.”

The Christian life wheel diagram:

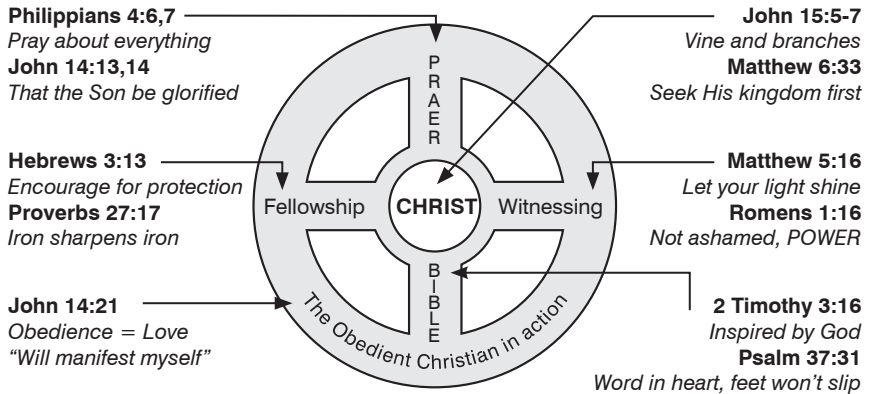


Figure 6

The diagram illustrates the Christian life as a wheel with Jesus at the centre (the hub). The four spokes – the Word of God, Prayer, Fellowship, and Sharing Your Testimony – connect the hub to the rim (the Christian life). Together, these principles keep our lives balanced and moving forward in faith and obedience.

Conclusion

Living the Christian life means centring on Jesus and actively engaging in the four spiritual principles. The Word of God grounds us in truth, prayer connects us to God, fellowship strengthens us in community, and sharing our testimony spreads God's love. As we apply these principles, our lives become a reflection of Christ, and our faith grows deeper and more vibrant. May we faithfully walk this journey, empowered by His Spirit and anchored in His grace.

In the following chapter, we will unpack each of these principles. 

⁶ Adsit, Christopher. *Personal Disciplemaking: A Step-by-Step Guide for Leading a Christian From New Birth to Maturity* (p. 203). Kindle Edition.



Chapter Eight

Three Important Factors That Influence Spiritual Growth

Three very important factors influence spiritual growth: Time, Adversity, and the Sovereignty of God. You need to share these with your disciple, even if only briefly. After you write out the wheel illustration, turn your sheet of paper over or find an unused corner on the front, and write: Time, Adversity, and the Sovereignty of God.

Spiritual growth takes time, is enhanced by adversity, and is sovereignly directed by God.

A. The time factor

1. ***There are no shortcuts.*** Both physical growth and spiritual growth take time.
2. ***God takes His time.*** Whenever God wants to do something meaningful, time is always a huge factor. It took Noah 120 years to build the ark; God put Moses through 80 years of training to prepare him to lead His people; Jesus, the Son of God, was confined to the discipline of a carpenter for 30 years before God felt He was ready to begin His ministry; nothing significant happened in Abraham's life until he was well into his 80s. It took 40 years for God to bring the Israelites to the Promised Land, a journey that should have taken no more than two weeks.
3. ***Quality requires time.*** A zealous seminary student once asked Dr. A.H. Strong if he could take an abbreviated curriculum that would enable him to get his seminary training behind him faster so he could get out to the mission fields. Dr. Strong replied, "Oh yes, but that depends on what you want to be. It takes a hundred years to make a decent oak tree, but only three months to make a squash."

4. ***Complexity requires time.*** In the animal kingdom, the lower the life form, the sooner it reaches maturity. A mouse is considered full-grown after only a few months; a dog requires a couple of years; a human needs sixteen to twenty years—longer than any other animal. Quality takes time in the spiritual realm as well as in the physical.
5. ***Be patient; time will pass.*** Don't expect to become a "Super Christian" in a couple of weeks. You'll need to be patient with yourself, me, God, and the program He has for you. Sometimes it might seem like it's taking forever to grow up spiritually, and sometimes you'll wonder if there's been any progress at all. But you've been there before, haven't you? Remember when you were fourteen, and you wondered if you would ever reach sixteen, that magic license? Well, you finally got there, didn't you? And no amount of moaning and groaning made the time go any faster. You just had to put in your time and be patient with the calendar, and so the day finally came. It's the same thing with spiritual growth. It's going to take time.

B. The adversity factor

1. ***Adversity enhances growth.*** Have you ever looked under a microscope at the growth rings of a tree? If you have, you would have noticed both light and dark rings. The light rings are the summer growth. Under your microscope, you would have seen that the cells laid down then are big and fat because they were formed when it was warm and plenty of nutrients, sunlight and water were available. Some trees grow more in one month during the summer than the other eleven months combined. When you move your microscope to the dark wood, you notice those cells are small, shrivelled and rugged. They were formed in the winter—when it was cold, dark, and much less food and water available. Yet during the winter, when it's the most challenging time, a "solidification" process occurs within that tree. If the tree didn't go through this process, it would be too weak to stand up to the storms coming its way. It's the same with our spiritual

growth. God allows us to go through adversity, not because He can't help us, but because He knows it will make us stronger and prepare us for more extraordinary things.

2. **Expect both good and bad.** Neither physical growth nor spiritual growth is uniform. There will always be ups and downs; you need to expect it. There will be mountain-top experiences and valleys of despair, blasting before building, spinach as well as strawberry shortcake. There will be growth spurts when you feel close to God, and you experience victory after victory. Other times, you will feel stale and stagnant. That's OK—we all go through dry times now and then. I guarantee you that if you keep Christ on the throne of your life, those dry times won't last long.
3. **No pain—no gain.** Let's look at the athletic realm. When an athlete decides he wants to compete in the Olympics, he knows he's in for a hard time—and he accepts it willingly. His coach makes him run until his body aches from fatigue. He makes him lift heavy weights. He makes him eat a variety of distasteful foods, and he makes him go to bed early and get up early. And when the athlete says he's tired, the coach doesn't listen; he pours on more pain! The coach doesn't do all these unkind things to the athlete because he doesn't like him—he does it because he knows that those disciplines are the very things that will help the athlete make it to the Olympics. He knows there are no shortcuts. Without the adversity, there will be no victory (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). Think of God as your “Heavenly Coach” who is training you for activities of far more importance and significance than the Olympics. You need to realise that there will be hard times in His training program. (2 Timothy 3:12; Hebrews 12:5-11).

C. The sovereignty of God factor

1. **God is always in control.** God is more concerned about your spiritual growth than you are! (Deuteronomy 5:29; Jeremiah 29:11). In the training program God has in mind for you, there will no doubt be

some tough times. Just remember, God has thoroughly screened those tough times and determined that you can handle them and that they will benefit you (Psalm 103:13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13).

2. **God knows what we don't.** We may not understand everything God takes us through to move us to maturity, but that doesn't have to bother us. I don't know what the dentist is doing in my mouth when filling a cavity, but I know it's good for me despite the discomfort. In the same way, we can have confidence in God's abilities as He works on our souls.

Conclusion

Spiritual growth is shaped by three key factors: **time**, **adversity**, and **God's sovereignty**. Understanding these elements is essential for developing a strong faith.

Time plays a crucial role, as growth does not happen overnight. Just as trees, animals, and humans require time to mature, spiritual development is gradual. Many biblical figures, including Noah, Moses, and Jesus, underwent long periods of preparation before fulfilling their purpose. Patience is essential, as rushing the process only leads to shallow growth.

Adversity strengthens faith. Trees grow tougher during harsh winters, and people become stronger through difficult times. Challenges may feel discouraging, but they are necessary for solidifying character and preparing for future trials. Growth is never constant—there will be highs and lows. Just like an athlete endures rigorous training to compete, Christians must embrace hardships to develop resilience and endurance in their faith.

God's sovereignty ensures that everything happens under His control. Even when situations seem unclear, He has a plan for each believer. Just as a dentist works on a cavity for a patient's benefit, God's guidance may be uncomfortable, but it is always for good. Trusting His plan leads to lasting spiritual maturity. ☒

Personal notes _____

Chapter Nine

Fellowship

Objective

The disciple has a basic understanding of the importance of Christian fellowship and has started attending Christian functions.

The importance of fellowship in the Christian life

Fellowship is a central part of the Christian life. It is not just about attending church services but about forming meaningful relationships with other believers, growing in faith, and encouraging one another in love. The Bible teaches us that Christians are called to live in unity, support each other, and worship together. We will explore three key aspects of Christian fellowship: the role of love in fellowship, why Christians should fellowship with others, and what Christians do when they gather for fellowship.

Biblical basis for this objective

Every believer needs to be in fellowship with other believers for mutual protection and encouragement. Look up the following verses and jot down a summary of each one in your notebook on making disciples. You can add more scriptures to these.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

1 Corinthians 10:24

Romans 15:1-3

1 Corinthians 10:24

Hebrews 10:24-25

Philippians 2:3-4

Hebrews 3:13

Romans 1:11-12

Proverbs 27:17

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Ephesians 4:16

Definition: Fellowship: Building up, encouraging, and equipping the body of Christ by the body of Christ.

1. The priority of LOVE in Christian fellowship

Love is the foundation of Christian fellowship. The Bible teaches that God is love (1 John 4:8) and that Christians are to love one another as Christ has loved them (John 13:34-35). Love in Christian fellowship means caring for one another, supporting each other in difficult times, and rejoicing in moments of happiness. It goes beyond words and is demonstrated through actions.

One of the most outstanding examples of love in Christian fellowship is found in the early church. Acts 2:42-47 describes how the first Christians lived in harmony, sharing their possessions, praying together, and breaking bread in each other's homes. Their love for one another was so strong that it drew many people to Christ. This kind of love should still characterise Christian fellowship today.

This love also involves forgiveness and grace. Christians are not perfect, and there will be disagreements and even conflict. However, true Christian love means being willing to forgive and seek reconciliation, just as Christ forgave us (Colossians 3:13). When believers love one another genuinely, they reflect God's love to the world, making Christian fellowship a powerful testimony of faith.

- Matthew 22:37-40 - Loving God and loving man are the two greatest commandments.
- John 13:34-35 - Commanded to love by Jesus; the mark of a true disciple.
- Romans 13:8-10 - Love is the fulfilment of the law.
- 1 Corinthians 13 - The great love chapter.
- 1 Corinthians 16:14 - Do everything in love.
- Galatians 5:22 - Love is the first component of the fruit of the Spirit.
- 1 Peter 4:8 - Love covers a multitude of sins.
- 1 John 3:16-18 - Love prompts us to sacrifice for others. If not, the love of God isn't in us. We need to love through deeds, not just through words.
- 1 John 4:7-8 - Love is a characteristic of all those born of God.
- 1 John 4:16-21 - Abiding in love = abiding in God.

We love because He first loved us; you can't love God and hate your brother.

2. WHY we should fellowship

Fellowship with other Christians is essential for spiritual growth and encouragement. The Christian journey is not meant to be walked alone; believers are called to support one another in their faith.

Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages Christians not to neglect meeting together but rather to encourage one another, especially as the day of Christ's return draws near. One key reason for fellowship is **accountability**. Being surrounded by fellow believers helps Christians stay strong in their faith and avoid sin. Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Through fellowship, Christians can challenge one another to grow spiritually, pray for each other, and provide guidance based on biblical principles.

Another reason for fellowship is the **sharing of burdens**. Life can be challenging, and everyone faces trials and struggles. In Christian fellowship, believers are called to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Whether through prayer, encouragement, or practical support, being part of a community provides strength and comfort.

Furthermore, fellowship **strengthens faith**. When Christians gather, they share testimonies of God's goodness, reminding each other of His faithfulness. Hearing how God has worked in someone else's life can be an encouragement and a source of hope.

Fellowship also provides opportunities to learn from one another through Bible study, discussions, and mentorship.

- Proverbs 27:17 - We "sharpen" each other.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - A better return for labour, provides protection, warmth and strength in numbers.
- Matthew 18:20 - Christ's promise to be present
- Romans 1:11-12 - We all strengthen, benefit and encourage each other.

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 - We are all part of the “body” of Christ and need each other; we help each other by supplying each other’s needs.
- Hebrews 3:13 - Keeps us from being hardened by sin.

3. WHAT we do in fellowship

When Christians come together for fellowship, several key activities help them grow in faith and strengthen their relationships with each other. These activities include worship, prayer, Bible study, and service acts.

One of the most common activities in Christian fellowship is **worship**. Worship is an expression of love and gratitude to God. It can take many forms, such as singing hymns, praising God through music, and spending time in personal or collective reflection. Worship unites believers in their love for God and reminds them of His greatness.

Prayer is another essential part of Christian fellowship. Jesus taught that where two or three gather in His name, He is present among them (Matthew 18:20). Praying together allows believers to intercede for one another, seek God’s guidance, and grow spiritually. Whether in small groups, church services, or personal meetings, prayer strengthens the bond among Christians and deepens their relationship with God.

Studying the Bible is a key element of fellowship. Christians gather to read and discuss Scripture, helping each other better understand God’s word. Bible study groups allow believers to ask questions, gain insight, and apply biblical teachings to their daily lives. Learning together also helps prevent misunderstandings of Scripture and encourages growth in wisdom and faith.

Acts of service and charity are also important in Christian fellowship. Believers are called to serve one another and their communities (Galatians 5:13). This can include helping those in need, visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, and participating in outreach programs. Serving together benefits others and strengthens the unity and love among believers.

Another aspect of fellowship is **sharing meals and spending time together**. Just as Jesus often ate with His disciples, Christians gather

together for meals today, fostering deeper relationships and a sense of belonging. Simple gatherings, such as sharing coffee after church or hosting a dinner, create opportunities for meaningful conversations and mutual encouragement.

- Acts 2:42 - Study the Word together, have communion, and pray together.
- 1 Corinthians 10:24 - Seek each other's benefit, not our own.
- Galatians 6:2 - Carry each other's burdens.
- Ephesians 4:15-16 - Speak the truth in love; build each other up.
- Ephesians 5:19-20 - Colossians 3:16 - Worship God together.
- Philippians 2:1-2 - Seek unity and like-mindedness.
- Hebrews 3:13 - Exhort each other to maintain a Christian lifestyle.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 - Get together often with other Christians; provoke each other to love and good works.
- 1 Peter 5:5-6 - Serve each other in humility.

Conclusion

Christian fellowship is a vital part of the believer's journey. Through fellowship, Christians experience and share the love of Christ, strengthen their faith, and support one another in their spiritual walk. Love in fellowship is demonstrated through care, forgiveness, and unity. Fellowship with other Christians provides accountability, encouragement, and a means to grow in faith. When believers gather, they worship, pray, study the Bible, minister, serve, and share their lives.

By participating in fellowship, Christians build strong, faith-filled communities that reflect God's love for the world. Fellowship is not just a routine practice but an essential part of living a life that honours God and fulfils His purpose for believers. As Christians continue to gather in love and unity, they grow spiritually and become a light to those around them. Our disciple must be encouraged to join a fellowship of believers that meets regularly around the word of God, encouraging and praying for one another.

Evaluation

The desire is to see that the person you are discipling will attend church regularly. By regular, I mean you're not done with him until he attends weekly. I can't presume to lecture anyone about how often they should attend meetings every week. Some feel that once on Sunday is enough; others would vote for "every time the church doors are open." So again, you and the Holy Spirit need to confer on the subject and come up with a decision.

A growing Christian should be involved at least once a week in all three group dynamics: one-to-one, small group, and large group. If you're interested in a little more evaluation on whether or not your disciple has grasped the concept of Christian fellowship, here are a few questions you could ask:

1. Of all of the components of the fruit of the Spirit, which would you say should be the most evident in our relationships with other believers?
2. How is Christian fellowship like being part of a physical body?
3. Does it make you uncomfortable being around other Christians? (If so...) Why do you think that is?
4. What do you think you should do if you know a Christian friend has a grudge against you about something?
5. Can you think of anyone you're at odds with right now? If so...) What should you do about it?
6. Do you think it's possible to love God and not love our brother at the same time?
7. Why do you think Christ was so concerned that His disciples be unified and like-minded?
8. How can fellowshiping with other Christians protect us from getting "hardened by the deceitfulness of sin?" 

Personal notes _____

Chapter Ten

The Word

Objective

The disciple now has a basic understanding of the importance of biblical input, is familiar with the Bible's physical layout, and has begun to read it on his own. The Bible is the basis for this objective

Just as a newborn baby has an almost immediate, instinctive craving for its mother's milk, so a newborn spiritual baby craves spiritual food. He may not understand that's what he wants, but then, neither does a physical baby when he's only ten minutes out of his mother's womb. Go ahead and ask him. All he'll do is cry and holler; he won't give you anything close to a civil answer (the actual baby). Both types of babies crave this food because their Creator put that desire in them.

He knows that their little bodies need nourishment to stay healthy and grow. Physical babies grow through the intake of food; spiritual babies grow through the intake of the Word.

The following references depict the Bible as equivalent to food in the spiritual realm, and without it, a new Christian (or an old Christian, for that matter) cannot grow.

Look up each reference and write a summary of the verse in your disciple-maker's notebook.

Deuteronomy 8:3

1 Timothy 4:61

Acts 20:32

1 Peter 2:2-3

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Matthew 4:4

Job 23:12

A. The Bible

If you read the Bible in its broadest sense, it's simply a history book, a record of the times God has interjected Himself into human history. People

often say, “Oh, if God would only show Himself, then we’d have no trouble believing. Well, that’s what this book is—God showing Himself to man, telling us what He’s like, what’s in store for us, what pleases Him, what displeases Him, where we came from, where we’re going, etc.

God has said and done some pretty incredible things through the years, and the Bible is where people have written those things down so we’ll never forget them.

Old Testament/New Testament.

The Old Testament was written before Jesus Christ was born (BC = “before Christ”), while the New Testament was written after He died and rose again (AD = “anno Domini” or “year of our Lord”). They are called the Old and New Testaments because they refer to the agreements existing between God and man before and after Christ’s sacrifice.

During the Old Testament, people who wanted to follow God had to obey hundreds of laws that God had set down through Moses. Another word for Testament is covenant or agreement. The people promised/agreed to follow these laws, and God agreed (if they kept their promise) to protect them, bless them and make them a great nation. It was like a “deal” they had between them.

During those days, when a person sinned, an elaborate system of animal sacrifices would “cover” that person’s sin with the blood of an innocent animal. But when Jesus was sacrificed on the cross, He ushered in the period of the New Testament or “New Agreement.” He was the perfect, innocent sacrifice, and while the blood of the animal sacrifices was capable of only **covering** the peoples’ sin from God’s eyes, Jesus’ blood took it **away**—paid for our sin.

Under this New Covenant, we are no longer subject to those impossible laws. Instead, we have God Himself, in the Holy Spirit, living inside us, helping us do right instead of wrong. And our faith in Christ, not how well we can follow all of the laws, makes us righteous in God’s eyes. We are no longer under the Old Covenant, but many important things in the Old

Testament still apply to us, and we will spend some time discussing some of them.

Who wrote the Bible?

The Bible is not just one book; it's sixty-six books written by over forty authors over 1500 years. These authors include a spectrum of people, from common labourers to the most influential world leaders ever to walk the face of the earth: kings, politicians, the heir to the throne of the pharaoh, prophets, rabbis, a physician, a tax collector, a farmer, fishermen and others. Yet the bond of the Holy Spirit ties all of these authors together.

Through the centuries, God Himself, through His Holy Spirit, told each of these authors precisely what to write down. In 2 Timothy 3:16, we read that all Scripture is "God-breathed," meaning that, though humans wrote it on paper, its ultimate source was God.

The prophecies of the Bible never had their origins in the minds of mere men, but "men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). I am convinced that these authors wrote the very words of God.

Here are some of the reasons I believe this:

1. All of the prophecies, up to now, have come true exactly as they were prophesied.
2. The general structure of today's world governments, including details concerning which nations would be allies and which would be enemies, was foretold thousands of years ago in the Bible.
3. It is historically accurate. The Bible supplies details of history that historians scoffed at for hundreds of years because they seemed so inaccurate. Yet, as more archaeological evidence continues to be unearthed, we continually find more confirmation of the Bible's historical accuracy, and the scoffers are strangely silent.
4. The dietary and health laws in the Old Testament closely approximate what modern science has only just recently found concerning beneficial and harmful practices. How could Moses have figured all that out by himself in 1350 B.C.?

5. The Bible has been transmitted with incredible accuracy through the centuries. Thanks to the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, we know for a fact that the Bible we have in our hands today is the same as it was during Christ's time.

The structure of the Bible

Take your disciple to the Bible's table of contents and show him how it is set up. You might even want to draw lines and squares in his Bible so he'll remember. (Better ask first, though).

Old Testament

1. **The Law:** Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; Deuteronomy.
2. **The Histories:** Joshua; Judges; Ruth; 1 and 2 Samuel; 1 and 2 Kings; 1 and 2 Chronicles; Ezra; Nehemiah; Esther.
3. **The Poets:** Job; Psalms; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon.
4. **The Prophets:**
 - a. (Major Prophets) Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel.
 - b. (Minor Prophets) Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi.

New Testament

1. **The Histories:**
 - a. The Gospels—accounts of the life of Jesus—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
 - b. The Acts of the Apostles—accounts of the early church after Jesus' resurrection
2. **The Epistles**—"letters" written by various apostles to churches, groups of people or individuals:
Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians; Galatians; Ephesians; Philippians; Colossians; 1 and 2 Thessalonians; 1 and 2 Timothy; Titus; Philemon; Hebrews; James; 1 and 2 Peter; 1, 2 and 3 John; Jude 3. The Apocalypse—prophecy concerning the end of the world—Revelation

Where to Start Reading?

Here are some suggestions.

- a. **The Gospel of John.** This Gospel presents Jesus in His deity, and we find more proof texts for Jesus as the unique Son of God in this book than in any other Gospel. Jesus is also presented very personally here. We see considerable detail concerning His personal life, His relationships with His disciples and His relationship with His Father. The word ‘believe’ (and its different forms) is found ninety-seven times in this book and will give the reader a good sense of the centrality of faith in the Christian life.
- b. **The Gospel of Mark.** This Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels, the fastest-moving, and the most action-packed. It’s like listening to the six o’clock news on TV. It focuses more on what Jesus did than on what He said. Descriptions of Jesus’ miracles abound in this book. As J. Sidlow Baxter said, “Mark is the cameraman of the four Gospel writers, giving us shot after shot of unforgettable scenes.”
- c. **The Gospel of Matthew.** The longest Gospel is recommended only for those who seem to be studious, who would think nothing of spending an hour at a time reading. It starts with great descriptions of the birth of Christ, John the Baptist, the temptation of Jesus and the calling of the first disciples. All narratives should easily catch the attention of your disciples. Then comes the Sermon on the Mount, an excellent introduction for the new Christian regarding how radical the Christian lifestyle is meant to be.

If your disciple is of Jewish origin, then THIS is the gospel for him, as it is written by a Jew, for Jewish readers, and strongly presents Jesus as the Messiah. There are 130 quotes from the Old Testament in this book.
- d. **The Gospel of Luke.** This is another lengthy Gospel, starting with the most extensive narrative of Jesus’ birth and childhood. It is great for young people and those already familiar with Christianity.

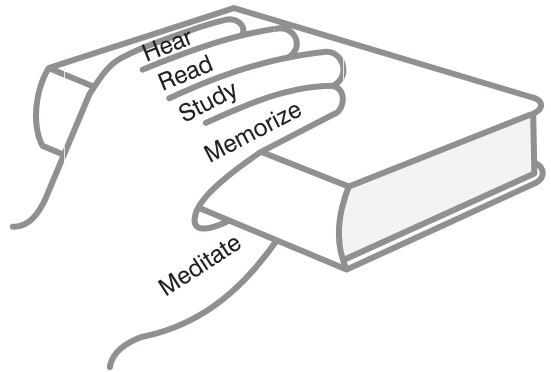
The Christmas narrative will probably bring back many pleasant memories for them. It could be compared to watching a documentary, emphasising factual reporting of historical events initially intended to be read by the intellectual, logical Greeks.

- e. **The Psalms.** I wouldn't recommend a strong dose of these yet. To those who have walked with Christ for a while, they are among the most precious passages in God's Word.
For a new believer, though, they could be a bit tiresome, and some could confuse him. They could even prompt thoughts like, 'Why is David praying for God to smash his enemies to smithereens? That doesn't seem like the Christian thing to do.' You might suggest that your disciple read one daily, in addition to his reading of the Gospels. Consider assigning specific psalms that you know he can grasp with a minimum of confusion and a maximum of inspiration, such as Psalms 1, 2, 8, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 32, 34, 37, 42, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, 56, 62, 63, 66, 67, 71, 84, 86, 91, 92, 96, 100, 101, 103, 107, 111-118, 119, 122, 123, 126, 130, 138, 139, 145-150. (If your favourite isn't listed above, add it!)
- f. **The Proverbs.** The same approach applies to Proverbs as to Psalms. Your disciple could read the chapter in Proverbs that corresponds with the current day of the month (i.e. on May 12, read Proverbs 12).
- g. **The Acts.** After he has read a Gospel or two, the next logical book would be Acts. It describes the growth of the early church and heavily emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. The results are clear in this book on living a life of faith, and Paul sets an excellent example of how to live victoriously amid personal trial and affliction, a concept all Christians need to grasp early in their Christian walk.
- h. **The Epistles.** After your disciple has read a couple of the Gospels and Acts, you could encourage him to begin reading an epistle. They require a lot more concentration, so you should recommend that he limit his intake to a chapter a day. Start him off with one of the short ones. Ephesians would be excellent because it covers many of the

major themes of the Christian walk. Galatians would also be good, mainly since it contains the section contrasting the works of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit.

As you can see from the above illustration, there are five ways we can go about getting a firm grasp on God's Word by:

1. hearing,
2. reading,
3. studying,
4. memorising, and
5. meditating.



A good way to demonstrate this graphically is to trace the outline of your hand on a sheet of paper and label each finger appropriately.

Next, take the fingers individually and look at a Scripture that backs up each method, writing the reference next to its corresponding finger.

Choose from the following:

1. Hear: Romans 10:17; Luke 6:45-49; Luke 11:28
2. Read: Deuteronomy 17:19; Revelation 1:3
3. Study: Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15
4. Memorise: Psalm 37:31; Psalm 119:9-11
5. Meditate: Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2,3

If we want a strong grip on an object, we must use ALL our fingers. If we try to hold on with only two or three fingers, the object is easily grabbed away and falls (demonstrate this as you talk about it). In the same way, we should use these methods of biblical intake if we want to get a firm grasp on the Word of God. We need to hear, read, study and memorise it. Then, just as our thumb opposes (can easily touch) each of our fingers, meditation should touch each of the other activities.

We should meditate on what we hear, read, study, and memorise. It does no good if God's Word goes in one ear and out the other. James 1:23-27 says, "If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his face in a mirror; after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." We need to let it sink into our hearts through meditation.

You'll notice that, in the illustration, the larger the finger, the harder its corresponding activity. It's easier to listen than to read, easier to read than to study, etc. However, it's also true that the larger the finger, the more effective the activity is.

Experts tell us that after 24 hours, we can recall only about 5 per cent of what we have heard, 15 per cent of what we have read, 35 per cent of what we have studied, and 100 per cent of what we have memorised. Since this is true, we should give special attention to the more effective activities.

Evaluation

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does my disciple understand the importance of involvement in regular Bible input?
2. Does he see the Scriptures as spiritual nourishment, indispensable for growth?
3. Does he have a basic understanding of the layout of the Bible? Does he know the significance of each significant section?
4. Has he begun to read the Bible on his own? If you can answer each question affirmatively, this training objective has been successfully met.

Conclusion

Just as a newborn needs nourishment to grow, a believer needs the Word of God to develop spiritually. The Bible is more than just a historical record. It is God revealing Himself to humanity, providing guidance, wisdom, and truth.

The Old and New Testaments outline God's relationship with His people, showing how Jesus' sacrifice established a new covenant based on faith rather than strict adherence to laws.

Understanding the structure of the Bible helps believers effectively navigate its teachings. This chapter explains the different sections of the Old and New Testaments, from historical accounts and poetry to prophecies and teachings. It also provides guidance on where to start reading and recommends books like John, Mark, and Acts for beginners.

Engaging with the Bible involves multiple approaches—hearing, reading, studying, memorising, and meditating. All five methods strengthen one’s grasp of God’s Word, leading to deeper faith and understanding. The chapter concludes by encouraging introspection by the disciple to ensure consistent Bible engagement. If a disciple understands the importance of Scripture and its structure and has started with personal Bible reading, then the objective of this training has been successfully achieved. 

Personal notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.



Chapter Eleven

Prayer

Objective

The disciple now has a basic understanding of the importance of prayer and is beginning to pray by himself.

Biblical basis

At the vortex of the tornado called “The Christian Life,” there is a fact that should affect everything we do as Christians: Christianity is a **relationship** with God with the guidance of the risen, glorified Saviour. Its foundation is a two-way, vital, dynamic friendship between the Creator and His creation. We all know communication is necessary if you want to have a relationship with someone. No communication, no relationship. It’s that simple. Since we desire to have a relationship with God, we must talk to Him.

We call this “prayer.” Jesus commanded us in the Great Commission recorded in Matthew 28:19-20 to “make disciples... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” He gave us many instructions concerning prayer, and a number of them are listed below.

As usual, look up each reference and jot down a summary of each one in your discipling notebook.

Matthew 5:44	Luke 21:36	Luke 6:28
Matthew 26:41	Matthew 7:7-8	John 15:7,16
Luke 18:1	Mark 13:33	Matthew 24:20
Matthew 6:5-9	John 14:13,14	Luke 11:2
Mark 11:22-25	Matthew 9:38	John 16:24-27

Definition

Rosalind Rinker: “Prayer is a dialogue between two persons who love each other.”

- 1 William R. Bright: *“Prayer is simply talking to God.”*
- 2 S. D. Gordon: *“Prayer is the word commonly used for all intercourse with God.”*
- 3 Dick Eastman: *“Prayer is to verbalize our total dependence on God concerning all our efforts.”*
- 4 Andrew Murray: *“Prayer is fellowship with the Unseen and Most Holy One. The powers of the eternal world have been placed at its disposal. It is the very essence of true religion, the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life.”*
- 5 Robert A. Cook: *“Prayer is a cry. The physician expects the newborn babe to cry out, as the first evidence of life. If it does not cry, he shakes or spanks it to produce a cry. If it continues silent, it will soon be dead.”*
- 6 Dr. Jack Taylor: *“Prayer is weakness plugged into strength. Prayer is saying, ‘I can’t, but You can,’ and plugging into God’s ‘I will.’”*

Facts that the new Christian should know concerning prayer

1. Prayer is simply talking to God.

Though God is far more than a mere person, He is more like a person than anything else our minds can conceive of. For this reason, He asks us to converse with Him just as we would with another person. Since the essence of the Christian life is maintaining a vital relationship with God, and since communication between two people is the only way to build a relationship, you must speak to one another to have that relationship.

Examples:

- Genesis 18:22-33 (Abraham)
- Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 139:23-24 (David)
- Matthew 6:9-13 (Jesus)
- Matthew 11:25-26 (Jesus)

2. You can pray about *anything* you want *anytime* and *anywhere*.

Many people think God doesn't want to be bothered with "insignificant" matters. They think He's too busy with more significant and important pursuits like stopping wars, ending droughts and telling presidents and kings how to run their countries. Nothing could be further from the truth. Proverbs 15:8 says the "prayer of the upright is His delight." That means that He loves to hear from us, no matter what we have on our minds. God is everywhere-present (omnipresent) and all-powerful (omnipotent), so He doesn't have to stop what He's doing to be able to listen to us.

We can enter His throne room anytime we want to, for any reason, and **He'll always welcome us with an open lap.**

Anything:

- 1 Chronicles 4:10 (*for blessings*)
- Psalm 145:1-2 (*in praise and worship*)
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 (*for national peace*)
- Proverbs 3:5-6 (*for guidance*)
- 2 Chronicles 14:11 (*for help in trouble*)
- Matthew 5:44 (*for your enemies*)
- Psalm 18:1 (*to express love to God*)
- Matthew 6:11 (*for daily needs*)
- Psalm 22:1-2 (*when in anguish*)
- Mark 11:22-23 (*for the impossible*)
- Psalm 52:9 (*to express thanks to God*)
- Mark 11:24 (*for your desires*)
- Psalm 143:8 (*for direction*)
- Luke 18:13 (*for God's mercy*)
- Psalm 143:9 (*for protection*)
- Luke 22:31-32 (*for your friends*)
- Psalm 143:10 (*for instruction*)
- John 15:16 (*for your ministry*)
- Romans 10:1 (*for another's salvation*)
- James 1:5 (*for wisdom*)
- James 5:16 (*for physical healing*)
- 1 John 1:9 (*for forgiveness*)
- 1 John 5:14 (*for **anything***)
- Philippians 4:6,7 (*for **everything***)

Any time:

- Exodus 15:11-12 (*When you're "Up"*)
- Psalm 55:17 (*evening, morning, noon*)
- 2 Samuel 12:16 (*when you're "down"*)
- Psalm 88:1 (*day and night*)

- 1 Kings 18:36 (*in spiritual battle*)
- Psalm 5:3 (*mourning*)
- Psalm 51:3-4 (*when you've sinned*)
- 2 Timothy 1:3 (*night and day*)
- Mark 1:35 (*before dawn*)
- Luke 10:21 (*spontaneously*)
- Acts 16:25 (*when in trials*)

Any place:

- 1 Samuel 1:9-10 (*in the house of God*)
- Matthew 6:6 (*in your room*)
- Mark 1:35 (*alone*)
- Matthew 14:23 (*on the hills*)
- Matthew 18:19-20 (*with others*)

3. God does hear our prayers.

Praying is not merely some psychological exercise or discipline. It's not like a form of meditation where we engage strictly for our own benefit and edification. It's a genuine conversation. You speak, and God listens. He'll talk back to you through His Word, the Bible, circumstances, or even through direct impressions of your spirit.

- Psalm 10:17
- 1 Peter 3:12
- Psalm 65:2
- Psalm 40:1 1
- Psalm 34:15,17
- 1 John 5:14-15

4. God answers our prayers in one of three ways:

Yes, No, or Wait. Just asking God for something in prayer doesn't guarantee that we will receive it. God is all-wise. He knows us intimately. He knows that some requests we make would be good for us, and then He may answer "Yes".

Some requests would be bad for us, and then He may say "No". Other requests might be good for us in the future, but not at present. That's when He says, "Wait." Our attitude should be one of quiet acceptance.

When God answers, "Yes":

- Psalm 32:5 - David's prayer for forgiveness
- 1 Samuel 1:11,19-20 - Hannah's prayer for a son (Samuel)

- 2 Kings 20:1-6 - Hezekiah's prayer for God to spare his life
- Genesis 24:12-27 - Abraham's servant's prayer for Isaac's wife
- Genesis 25:21 - Isaac's prayer that barren Rebekah would have children
- 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 - Prayer of Jabez
- 2 Kings 6:15-18 - Elisha's prayer that his enemies be blinded
- Matthew 9:27-31 - Blind men ask Jesus to restore their sight
- Luke 17:11-14 - Ten lepers asking Jesus to heal them
- Luke 18:35-43 - Blind beggar asking Jesus to restore his sight

When God answers, "No":

- 2 Samuel 12:15-18 - David's prayer that his son, the result of his sin with Bathsheba, would live. Request denied.
- Matthew 26:37-42 - Jesus' prayer that He would not have to be crucified. Request denied.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - Paul's prayer (three times) that God would remove his "thorn in the flesh." Request denied.

When God answers, "Wait":

- Genesis 15:2-5 - Abraham's prayer for a son. God said yes, but it was many years before Isaac was born.
- Genesis 50:24-25 - God's promise to Joseph that He would take him and his family from Egypt back to Canaan. He did, but only 440 years later.
- Exodus 5:22-23; 6:6-8 - Moses asking God to rescue the nation of Israel. God said He would, but only after He demonstrated His power and presence to the world through the Ten Plagues.

5. There are five types of prayer:

1. Adoration
2. Confession
3. Intercession
4. Supplication
5. Thanksgiving

Prayer does not consist entirely of asking God for things we want. Imagine having a relationship with someone in which all the other person ever did was ask you for things!

1. God will hear your prayers regardless of your physical posture.

Here are biblical examples of the variety in prayer posture:

- Genesis 18:22-23 (*Abraham stood*)
- Exodus 34:8 (*Moses bowed*)
- Joshua 7:6 (*Joshua was prostrate*)
- 1 Samuel 1:26 (*Hannah stood*)
- 1 Kings 8:54-55 (*Solomon kneeled*)
- 2 Kings 20:1-2 (*Hezekiah on his bed*)
- Daniel 6:10 (*Daniel kneeled*)
- Matthew 26:39 (*Jesus was prostrate*)
- Mark 11:25 (*"When you stand..."*)
- Luke 22:41 (*Jesus kneeled*)

2. Faith is vital in prayer.

Throughout the Bible, God says, "If you want Me to work in and through you, you've got to have faith that I can and will do it." Faith is one of the primary character qualities God wants to develop in you, and He'll do everything He can to help you grow in that.

- Psalm 37:5
- Mark 11:24
- Hebrews 11:6
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Romans 4:20-21
- James 1:6-7
- Matthew 17:19-21

3. We can't expect God to grant our requests if we are unwilling to obey Him.

Our willingness to obey God will significantly influence the effectiveness of our prayer life.

- Psalm 37:4
- Proverbs 28:9
- 1 John 3:22
- Proverbs 15:8
- Matthew 6:14-15

4. We must deal with any known sin in our lives before we can expect God to hear and act upon our prayers.

It's foolish to think that you and I will never disobey God. We are human;

therefore, we will occasionally blow it. Our goal is to fail less as we grow more mature in the Lord. In the meantime, when we become conscious of disobeying God, we need to rectify matters with Him as soon as possible. We also have priorities when we come to God in prayer, but our Father isn't going to take the time to listen to them if He sees sin in our lives.

- Psalm 32:3-5
- Psalm 66:18
- Psalm 139:23-24
- Proverbs 28:13
- Isaiah 59:2
- 1 John 1:9

5. Prayer is hard work.

As in all work, patient perseverance is an important factor. The Bible says that this attitude will not go unrewarded.

- Psalm 40:1
- Luke 18:1-8
- Luke 11:5-9
- 1 Corinthians 15:58

6. We must approach God in humility.

Remember who we are talking to. As you read the Bible, you'll find that it greatly pleases God when we come to Him in humility, and it has the opposite effect when we exhibit pride.

- 2 Kings 22:19
- Psalm 51:16-17
- Psalm 10:17
- 1 Peter 5:5-6
- James 4:10
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- 2 Chronicles 34:27
- Luke 18:9-11

7. He fully accepts us as His children.

We can feel bold and confident about approaching Him in prayer because of our bond with our heavenly Father. We approach Him in prayer with a humble heart because of His position as our Creator, Saviour, King of kings, and Lord of the universe, but we also approach Him with boldness and confidence because He loved us enough to die for us, to adopt us, and to exalt us.

- Ephesians 3:12,
- Hebrews 4:15,16
- Hebrews 10:19-22

8. When you pray out loud.

Don't try to impress other people who might be listening. Just concentrate on talking to God. Now, this doesn't mean that public prayer should be avoided. On the contrary, Jesus encouraged us to pray out loud with other believers. There is something special and powerful about communal prayer. It's just that we need to be careful about our motives during public prayer. If we're trying to get people to be impressed by our prayers, they might be, but God won't be, and then we have lost our primary target audience! Matthew 6:6 and Luke 20:46-47.

9. Use your brain when you pray.

Don't just repeat phrases. Praying should come from your heart. Remember, God is an intelligent being, and our prayers to Him should honour that.

- Matthew 6:7

10. Pray expectantly; be specific in your requests.

What do you require from God?

- Genesis 18:23-32
- Judges 6:36-40
- 2 Kings 6:15-18
- Matthew 7:7-11
- John 16:24
- Philippians 4:6-7

11. Wait expectantly; take time to listen.

If you take the time to listen, you may be amazed at what He's got to say!

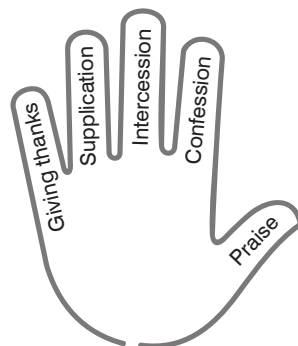
- 1 Kings 19:11-12
- Psalm 62:5
- Isaiah 55:1-4
- Psalm 27:14
- Psalm 85:8
- Hebrews 3:15

How to pray

I now want to share a very practical way to have a time of prayer. Think of the five fingers on your hand. Imagine the thumb represents a time of worship, your index finger represents a time of repentance, the middle finger represents a time of intercession, the ring finger represents a time of supplication, and the small finger represents a time of thanksgiving.

Keep this in mind when you pray; it will help you maintain a balanced prayer life.

- Enter God's presence with praise and worship
- Then confess your sins
- Pray for others and their needs
- Bring your own needs before the Lord
- Close your time in thanksgiving



Let us unpack each of these moments.

1. Praise

At its core, prayer is an act of worship. It is a way of acknowledging God's greatness, power, and holiness. Worship through prayer allows believers to reflect on God's nature and express their love and adoration. This can take many forms, from spoken words of praise to silent contemplation of His divine majesty. Worshipful prayer draws individuals closer to God, reinforcing faith and deepening the bond between the Creator and the believer.

- **Psalm 95:6** - "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."
- **John 4:24** - "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."
- **Revelation 4:11** - "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

2. Confession

Repentance is another essential aspect of prayer. It is seeking forgiveness for sins and shortcomings, acknowledging mistakes, and committing to change. Through prayer, believers open their hearts to God, confessing their sins

and asking for His mercy. This process brings spiritual renewal, offering a fresh start and a chance to grow in faith. True repentance is not just about **speaking words**; it involves a sincere **desire to change** and live according to divine principles.

- **1 John 1:9** - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- **Acts 3:19** - “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”
- **2 Chronicles 7:14** - “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

3. Intercession

Intercessory prayer is when individuals pray on behalf of others. This selfless act demonstrates love and compassion, showing concern for the well-being of family, friends, communities, or even strangers. Intercession reflects the belief that God listens to the prayers of His people and can bring comfort, healing, and support to those in need. Many find that interceding for others benefits the recipients and strengthens their faith and sense of connection with the world.

- **1 Timothy 2:1** - “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.”
- **James 5:14-15** - “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.”
- **Romans 8:26** - “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

4. Supplication

Supplication refers to the act of earnestly requesting something from God. It is a humble plea for help, whether for personal needs, guidance, strength, or healing. In moments of difficulty, believers turn to God, trusting in His wisdom and provision. While some prayers may not be answered as one expects, supplication teaches patience and trust, reinforcing the belief that God's plans are always for the best.

- **Philippians 4:6** - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
- **Matthew 7:7** - "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."
- **James 5:16** - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

5. Giving thanks

Gratitude is a fundamental part of prayer. Giving thanks acknowledges the blessings and goodness received from God, fostering a sense of contentment and appreciation. In times of joy or hardship, thanksgiving prayer helps believers focus on the positives in life, reinforcing trust in God's plan. Recognising and appreciating even the smallest blessings can bring peace and joy, making thanksgiving a powerful and transformative aspect of prayer.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** - "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- **Colossians 3:17** - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

- **Psalm 107:1** - “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

A few practical tips:

As you prepare for your time of prayer, consider the points below.

1. Seek a quiet space.

Before you begin to pray, find a place free from distractions where you can focus entirely on God. A quiet environment helps to settle your mind and heart, making it easier to enter into His presence. This could be a small room, a peaceful corner of your home, or even a secluded outdoor space. The key is to be somewhere that allows you to be still, away from noise and interruptions. Jesus often withdrew to quiet places to pray, setting an example for us. In the stillness, you can open your heart fully and draw near to God.

2. Have your Bible, a notebook, and a pen with you.

Having your Bible ensures you are grounded in God’s Word as you pray. A notebook and pen are valuable tools to record insights, thoughts, and anything God impresses upon your heart. Writing things down helps you to reflect more deeply and remember what He speaks to you. It also allows you to track your spiritual growth over time. Keeping these items close at hand prepares you for a meaningful and structured time of prayer, where you can listen, learn, and respond to God’s leading.

3. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to direct your heart and thoughts towards the Father.

Before beginning your prayer, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. He is the One who helps us pray, aligning our hearts with the will of God. Inviting Him into your prayer time ensures that your focus remains on the Father rather than being distracted by your thoughts. This simple act of surrender allows the Spirit to direct your words, thoughts, and emotions, making your prayer more heartfelt and in tune with God’s purposes. Through Him, your time

in prayer becomes more than a routine; it becomes a moment of genuine connection with God.

4. No cell phone.

To remain fully present with God, turn off your phone or leave it in another room. Notifications, messages, and calls can easily break your focus and distract your heart from prayer. God deserves your undivided attention, and removing digital distractions helps you to be more still and receptive. If you rely on your phone for Bible reading, consider using a physical Bible to avoid interruptions. Creating a sacred, distraction-free space allows you to engage more deeply in your time with God, ensuring that your heart and mind remain fixed on Him.

5. Start by reading the Bible.

The Bible is the living Word of God, and beginning your prayer time with Scripture sets the foundation for meaningful communication with Him. Choose a passage to read, whether from a structured plan or a book that speaks to your current circumstances. As you read, be open to how God may be speaking to you. His Word provides guidance, encouragement, and wisdom.

Let it shape your prayers, reminding you of His promises and drawing you into deeper fellowship with Him. Scripture prepares your heart, helping you to pray with faith and understanding.

6. Think and meditate on what you read.

After reading the Bible, take time to reflect on its meaning. Meditation is more than just reading. It allows the words to settle in your heart and transform your thoughts. Ask yourself what the passage reveals about God, His character, and His will for your life. Consider how it applies to your circumstances and what changes it calls you to make. Meditating on Scripture deepens your understanding and helps you internalise God's truth, so it becomes a guiding light in your prayers and daily walk with Him.

7. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart and speak to you.

As you meditate on God's Word, invite the Holy Spirit to examine your heart. Ask Him to reveal areas where you need His guidance, correction, or encouragement. The Spirit brings clarity, conviction, and peace, helping you to recognise God's voice and direction. Be open to His prompting, whether through a sense of peace, a conviction to change, or a fresh understanding of God's truth. This is a time of surrender, where you allow the Spirit to mould your heart and align your desires with God's perfect will.

8. Write down any impressions or thoughts that touch your heart.

Keeping a record of what God speaks to you during prayer helps to deepen your faith and spiritual journey. If a particular Scripture, thought, or conviction stands out, write it down. Journaling allows you to reflect on God's faithfulness over time and see patterns of how He is speaking to you. It also helps you remember His guidance, making it easier to apply His wisdom in your daily life. Whether it's a word of encouragement, a reminder of His love, or an insight for personal growth, writing things down strengthens your walk with Him.

9. Be quiet and listen to God with your spiritual ears.

Prayer is not just about speaking to God but also about listening. After bringing your thoughts and requests before Him, be still and wait on Him. Silence allows you to tune in to His voice and recognise His presence. God often speaks in a gentle whisper, impressing truths upon your heart. By quieting your mind and listening with your spirit, you create space for Him to lead, comfort, and reveal His will. In these moments of stillness, you experience the depth of His love and guidance.

Evaluation

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Does my disciple understand how important prayer is to his growth?
2. Does he see prayer as a ritual? Is he delivering a speech for the benefit of others to hear, or is he communicating with God?

3. Does he have a firm grasp on the fundamentals of prayer?
4. Is he praying on his own?
5. Do his prayers reflect a balance between Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Intercession and Supplication?
6. Is he praying for significant matters, or are his prayers shallow and unsubstantial?
7. Is he moving toward having a daily quiet time?

Conclusion

Prayer is a profound and dynamic practice encompassing worship, repentance, supplication, intercession, and thanksgiving. Each element deepens faith, strengthens the relationship with God, and brings spiritual fulfilment. Whether spoken aloud or whispered in the heart, prayer remains a vital source of comfort, guidance, and strength for all believers worldwide.



Personal notes



Chapter Twelve

How to Be an Effective Witness

Objective

The disciple now has a basic understanding of the importance of witnessing, knows the primary elements of the gospel, and can tell another person how to become a Christian.

Biblical basis

Throughout the Bible, it's evident that God intended witnessing to be a normal part of our lives as "called-out ones." Here are a few verses that confirm that. Look them up and jot down summaries in your discipling notebook.

Psalms 107:2	1 Corinthians 9:19-22	Acts 4:20
Mark 5:18-20	Ezekiel 3:18,19	2 Corinthians 6:1-2
Romans 1:16	John 20:21	Matthew 9:37-38
Proverbs 11:30	2 Corinthians 5:11	Acts 17:1-3
Luke 24:46-48	Matthew 4:19	Ephesians 3:8
Romans 10:13-15	Acts 4:12	Matthew 24:14
Proverbs 24:11-12	2 Corinthians 5:18,20	Acts 18:28
John 4:4-26	Matthew 5:13-16	

Definition

Witnessing: "Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God." Witnessing, in its broadest sense, is simply telling what you know. As Peter and John said to the Sanhedrin (who were trying to make them stop witnessing), "We cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). What have you seen and heard about Christ? As you relate those things to others, you are witnessing.

Gospel: All men are guilty of sin before God. The penalty for sin is death—eternal separation from God. But because of His great love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to take the penalty of our sins on Himself when He died on the cross. Three days later, He was resurrected from the dead and is alive today and forevermore. If a person repents of his sinful way of life and has faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and can save him from eternal death, he will be saved.

Scriptural “nuggets” of the gospel:

John 3:16	Romans 6:23
Acts 20:21	1 Corinthians 15:3-4
1 Corinthians 2:1-2	Acts 16:30-31
Luke 24:46-48	

Sharing your Christian testimony is a powerful way to proclaim God’s work in your life. It is a personal story of how you encountered Jesus Christ and how your life changed. The Bible encourages believers to share their testimonies as a means of glorifying God, strengthening faith, and spreading the gospel. Revelation 12:11 states, “*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*” This verse highlights the power of a testimony in overcoming challenges and defeating darkness.

The basics of the Gospel

In its most basic essence, the gospel is contained in four very simple points:

1. *God loves every individual* and created each one to have eternal fellowship with Him.
Jeremiah 29:11 Jeremiah 31:3
John 3:16 John 4:13-14
John 10:10
2. *Every individual has sinned*, thereby severing their fellowship with God, which ultimately results in eternal separation.

Psalm 14:2,3

Isaiah 53:6

Romans 3:10,12

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

Hebrews 9:27

3. *God sent His Son*, Jesus Christ, to take the penalty of our sins on Himself, making reunion with God possible.

John 3:17

Romans 5:8

Ephesians 1:6-7

Titus 2:14

1 Peter 3:18

1 John 4:9-10

4. *The sacrifice of Jesus* is applied to us individually as we, through an act of our will, receive Christ in faith.

John 1:12

1 John 5:11-13

Acts 16:31

John 5:24

Ephesians 2:8-9

Galatians 2:16

John 3:1-8

Revelation 3:20

Romans 10:9-10

Why share your testimony?

1. It strengthens our faith in God and His Word.

When we share our testimony, we reaffirm our faith in God and remind ourselves of His power and love. 1 John 5:10 says, “*Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.*” This verse emphasises the importance of affirming and proclaiming our faith.

2. It encourages others to grow in faith.

Hearing a personal story of transformation can inspire others to seek a deeper relationship with God. John 4:39 tells of the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well: “*Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I ever did.’*” This shows how a simple personal story can lead others to faith.

3. It gives believers the courage to share their own stories.

When we share our testimony, we embolden others to do the same. Acts 1:8 states, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Witnessing is both a command and a privilege for believers.

4. It brings glory to God.

Our testimonies point to God’s greatness and mercy. Revelation 1:2 states, *“...who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* Every time we share our testimony, we honour and glorify God.

5. It helps us stay accountable.

Sharing our faith story reminds us of our commitment to live according to God’s word. 2 Timothy 1:8 urges us: *“So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.”* This verse encourages believers to remain steadfast.

6. It reveals God’s power.

Our testimonies are living proof of God’s transformative power. 1 John 5:11 declares, *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”* Testimonies demonstrate the truth of God’s promises.

7. It drives away the darkness of the enemy.

Revelation 12:17 states, *“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.”* Sharing our testimony helps push back spiritual darkness.

Important points to keep in mind:

A. Avoid speaking “Christianese”

It is important to share our testimonies in a way that is clear and understandable to everyone. Avoid using phrases that may confuse people, such as:

- “The blood of Jesus washed away my sins.”
- “The sacrifice of the Lamb.”
- “I gave my heart to Jesus.”
- “God spoke to me.”
- “Jesus saved my soul.”
- “I am saved.”
- “God filled me with His Holy Spirit.”

Instead, use simple and relatable language that explains what these phrases mean in everyday terms.

B. Remember, it’s your job to witness.

It’s God’s job to convert people.

As Christians, our role is to share the message of the gospel faithfully and lovingly, not to force a response or manipulate an outcome. Conversion is ultimately a work of God, not of human effort or persuasion. This truth should free us from pressure and anxiety when witnessing—it is God who draws people to Himself and changes hearts. Jesus made this clear: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them” (John 6:44). Similarly, the Holy Spirit convicts the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7–11), revealing that transformation is His divine responsibility.

C. Depend on the Holy Spirit to work supernaturally. Before you talk to men about God, talk to God about men.

Evangelism is not merely a human endeavour—it is a spiritual act that requires spiritual empowerment. Prayer is essential preparation; when we intercede for others, we invite God’s Spirit to move in their hearts. We are not battling flesh and blood but spiritual strongholds, and only God can demolish those. “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds” (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Paul also reminds us, “our gospel came to you not simply with words but

also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1:5). Witnessing without prayer is like going into battle unarmed.

D. Don’t see people as “projects”.

It’s important to approach people with genuine love and compassion, not as tasks to complete or trophies to collect. Each individual is a soul for whom Christ died, made in God’s image and deserving of dignity and grace. The gospel is not a tool to pressure or frighten, but a message of hope and salvation. Jesus demonstrated this personal care when He spoke with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4), showing her respect and meeting her where she was. “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Sharing the gospel should always reflect Christ’s heart for people.

E. As you witness, be pleasant, friendly and positive.

Your tone and attitude can significantly impact how your message is received. People are far more open to hearing about Jesus when approached with warmth and respect. Being pleasant and positive reflects the joy and peace of the gospel message itself. “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:6). A friendly demeanour opens hearts more than harsh or judgemental tones ever could.

F. Avoid getting into arguments.

Arguments rarely lead to true understanding or transformation. Our goal is to share truth in love, not to win debates. Heated disputes can harden hearts rather than soften them. Paul advised Timothy: “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful” (2 Timothy 2:24). A calm and respectful conversation often leaves a lasting impression far beyond the immediate discussion.

G. Use applicable Scripture.

The Bible is living and active, and its truth has the power to convict, encourage, and guide. While our personal stories can be impactful, it is

Scripture that carries divine authority. Sharing relevant verses gives weight and clarity to your message. “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). Choose passages that speak directly to the person’s situation and spiritual need.

H. Be honest if you do not know the answers to questions and promise to look them up and return to the person (and keep that promise!)

Honesty builds trust. Admitting you don’t know something shows humility, not weakness. It can even open a door to further conversation when you follow up with thoughtful answers. “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ” (Ephesians 4:15). Being reliable and truthful honours both God and the person you’re speaking with.

I. Don’t preach.

Preaching in the sense of delivering a monologue can often be off-putting in a one-on-one setting. People respond better to dialogue where they feel heard and respected. Effective witnessing involves listening and engaging with the other person’s thoughts and questions. “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19). Aim to have a conversation, not a sermon.

J. Bring the witnessing situation to a point of decision on their part.

While we cannot and should not force a response, we should lovingly encourage people to consider what they’ve heard and make a personal decision. Sharing the gospel without ever inviting a response can leave a person unsure of what to do next. When Peter preached at Pentecost, the people asked what they should do, and he gave a clear call: “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38). Offer the opportunity, but let the decision rest with them.

Where to start?

I want to encourage you to take a piece of A4 paper and write down your journey with Jesus. Take time to write down everything that comes to mind. Start from the beginning of what you can remember and continue to the present day. Use as many pieces of paper as you need.

After doing this, read through everything you have written, rewrite your story, and organise it into the categories mentioned below. Once you have gone through this exercise, you will be able to present your story in a short version of perhaps three minutes. This helps you to stay on the subject and not wander off onto unrelated subjects. When you are in a position where you have more time to share and in more detail, you can do this and still follow the three points as guidelines when you present your story.

Here are the three categories to keep in mind as you prepare your story:

1. Your life before knowing Jesus.

- Keep it short and sweet.
- There is no need to share every negative detail.
- The main point is that your life did not honour God.
- You lacked peace and felt guilty.
- You made bad choices and hurt others.
- You were selfish, dishonest, or lost.

2. How you met Jesus.

- When and where did it happen?
- What were the circumstances?
- How did you react?

3. Your life after meeting Jesus.

- What changed?
- How is your life different now?
- How has this experience affected you and others?

What to do once your testimony is ready for sharing:

2 Timothy 4:2 says,

“Preach the word; be ready in and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”

Once you have prepared your testimony, consider the following steps:

1. Pray for the right opportunity.

Ask God to guide you to the right moments and people who need to hear your story.

2. Be bold and courageous.

Do not be afraid to share your faith. Matthew 24:14 (NIV) declares, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* Your story is a vital part of spreading the gospel.

3. Be open to opportunities.

Look for situations where sharing your testimony can make a difference—whether in conversations, social media, or church settings.

4. Make the most of every moment.

Sometimes, you may only have a short time to share. Keep your testimony concise and impactful.

5. Be creative in sharing your story.

You can share your testimony in various ways, such as:

- Writing it down and sharing it on social media.
- Creating a video testimony.
- Sharing one-on-one with a friend.
- Speaking in a church or group setting.

Here are some simple ways to share the Gospel with someone:

1. **Meet needs** by loving actions (pray for needs, help in other ways).
2. **Read the Word to them** (remember, God can use anybody!).
3. **Use literature** that clearly explains the Gospel (a tract or a book).

4. **Our Story** – A 2-3 minute (or 20 seconds) testimony of what God has done in your life that is clear (Acts 22:1-21).
- a. *What your life was like before?*
 - b. *What God did.*
 - c. *What your life is like now?*

Remember, a testimony is not evangelism unless the Gospel is included or shared afterwards.

God's Story – The Gospel shared in your own words in 2-3 minutes, clearly explaining:

- a. We are all sinners separated from God and His family.
- b. Jesus was sent by God the Father to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, to take our punishment on Him.
- c. If we repent of our sins and believe in what Jesus has done for us, we will not be punished for our sins and have eternal life in heaven and join God's family.
- d. We only receive this gift if we have accepted it.

You may like to use passages from ***The Romans Road***:

- a. Romans 3:10-12 and 23: Everyone needs salvation because we have all sinned.
- b. Romans 6:23: The consequence of sin is death.
- c. Romans 5:8: Jesus Christ died for our sins. He paid the price for our death.
- d. Romans 10:9-10 and 13 or John.1:9: We receive salvation and eternal life through confessing faith in Jesus Christ.
- e. Romans 5:1 and 8:1: Salvation through Jesus Christ brings us peace with God.

You may like to use the Bridge illustration with this or some other picture.



Leading someone to salvation – If you feel they have understood, ask the following questions:

- Do you *acknowledge* your sin and understand that you will be eternally punished for it if you don't receive forgiveness from God? (Yes).
- Do you *believe* that Jesus has already been punished for your sin and gives you the opportunity to be forgiven in his name? (Yes).
- Do you want to *turn away* from your sin, be forgiven, and live a better life? (Yes).

If they answer “Yes” to each question, they can ask God for forgiveness like this:

“God, please forgive my sins in Jesus’ name, and help me to live like you want me to.”

Evaluation

Ask yourself the following questions:

1. Does my disciple understand why witnessing is so important?
2. Can my disciple tell me what the basic elements of the gospel are?
3. Can my disciple tell another person how to be saved?

Conclusion

Sharing your Christian testimony is a meaningful way to express your faith and bring others closer to God. It is a way to glorify God, encourage believers, and spread the gospel. As **Revelation 6:9 and 20:4** remind us, the testimony of believers has always been powerful—even in the face of trials. May we all be inspired to boldly share our faith, knowing that our stories can transform lives. 

Personal notes



Chapter Thirteen

The Infilling of The Holy Spirit

Objective

The disciple now has a basic understanding and avails himself of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical basis

Following are several verses that address the subject of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Look up each reference and jot down a summary in your discipling notebook.

- Acts 1:8 - The Holy Spirit is the source of power in a Christian's life; we must draw on His power to live an abundant and fruitful life.
- Romans 8:5-6 - We can either set our minds on our old sinful nature or live the life the Spirit desires of us. Each option carries its unique consequences. Also, the Spirit can control our minds.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 - The man controlled by the Spirit can discern spiritual truth.
- Ephesians 4:30 - We can act in a way contrary to the desires of the Holy Spirit, causing us to grieve Him.
- Ephesians 5:18 - We are commanded to "be filled" with the Spirit. We have the option of being filled since a command can either be obeyed or ignored.
- Galatians 5:16 - The man controlled by the Holy Spirit can live a pure, righteous life. Galatians 5:25 - This is an invitation; therefore, we can choose not to live in line with the designs and intentions of the Spirit.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 - We can hamper the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Definitions of:

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit:

It is the entering of the Holy Spirit into the life of a repentant sinner when he gets saved.

The Holy Spirit permanently lives within those who are born again. This occurs in the life of every believer at the moment of salvation – John 14:16-18; John 16:7; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit:

The directing, controlling and empowering influence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer who has submitted his will to the will of God. Filling may occur frequently, even daily and hourly, in a believer's life. Being filled depends on the initiative and obedience of the believer.

An illustration

Pour some water into a glass and ask your disciple, "Would you say this glass has water in it? ("Yes"). Would you say it's filled with water? ("No, it's only about half full.") That's the way it is with most Christians and the Holy Spirit. All Christians are automatically indwelt by the Holy Spirit by salvation, just like this glass is 'indwelt' by the water, but not all are 'filled' with the Holy Spirit. There is an important difference. Now, fill the glass to the brim with water. "Is the glass filled now? ("Yes").

It takes a special set of actions before we can call this glass full. It's the same with being filled with the Holy Spirit. It doesn't happen automatically. But when our lives are filled with the Holy Spirit, it means that we have asked Him to direct, control and empower us to do His will. It's not the same as the 'emptying of one's self' as many Eastern mystical religions teach, where total obliteration of self is the supreme goal so that the gods are everything and we are nothing. Instead, it's simply coming to a decision that you want to do what God wants you to do and that you're permitting Him to empower you to carry out that decision. In a way, you are asking Christ to live out His life through you.

Tip the glass and let some water spill onto the table or floor. It's not always smooth sailing in the Christian's life. Our lives get a little messy at

times. We get frustrated with how things are or are not going, or we don't like how God is directing our lives, so we take back control. That's what sin is.

Before we came to Christ, we said, 'God's not ruling MY life!' just as Satan said. Yet when we became Christians, we asked God to be our Lord and King, and we became His loyal subjects. When we sin, we return to our old attitude and tell God, 'I don't need You. I don't like Your plans for me. I want control of my life again.' We rejoin Satan's rebels. When this happens, it's just like spilling out some of the water.

The glass is still "indwelt" by water but no longer full. The Holy Spirit still indwells our lives, but we are no longer filled. He is not directing, controlling or empowering us. But that doesn't have to be a permanent condition. Just as I can refill this glass (fill the glass to the brim again), you can be refilled by the Holy Spirit.

A controversial subject

Unfortunately, the subject of the Holy Spirit has become so controversial that the church prefers not to speak about it, and those who do talk and teach about the Holy Spirit are sometimes criticised as being too radical or too extreme.

It does not matter what your theological opinion or doctrine might be on this issue. The reality is that as Christians, we believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Although we might treat the Holy Spirit like the uncle that no one talks about in the family, it does not make Him go away. The Holy Spirit is an essential part of God. He is God, and your disciple needs to get to know the Holy Spirit and cultivate an intimate relationship with Him. I do not deny that I might be from one of those radical corners of the theological spectrum, but truth be told, my experience with the Holy Spirit has been very real and intimate. In my books "*Living on the Edge of Paradise*" and "*Thrive—7 Principles to an Impactful Life*," I frequently refer to this relationship.

Let me share a few points we need to consider as we further approach this subject. Again, please keep in mind that I completely understand

that you, as a reader or someone busy discipling a believer, might have a different opinion. I respect that, but I still want to share my experience and understanding of Scripture.

1. We need the Holy Spirit to be saved.

In John chapter 3, we read about the conversation between Jesus and the Jewish Pharisee Nicodemus. He was a learned man with a desire to know God.

In the conversation, he asks Jesus how it is possible for someone to be born again, and in John.3:6 Jesus replies, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” This response from Jesus indicates that the new birth is a spiritual experience initiated by the Spirit of God. In the same way, Paul writes to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 12:3, stating that no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Jesus promises His disciples in John 14:17 that the Holy Spirit lives “with us and in us.”

Considering the verses mentioned above, it is safe to say that without the work of the Holy Spirit, someone can’t acknowledge or confess Jesus as Lord. It is only by the Holy Spirit. It is a work the Holy Spirit does within us, in our spirit being.

2. The disciples of Jesus already had the Holy Spirit.

Let us visit the scene in Jerusalem just before Jesus ascended into heaven. We get a full view of the situation in the Book of Acts chapter 1. Jesus is about to leave His disciples behind. He knows what is about to happen. They, on the other hand, have no idea of the events that are about to unfold.

Here, I want to make it clear that the people who surrounded Jesus at this time on the Mount of Olives were His followers and disciples. They accepted and acknowledged Him as Lord and Master. In today’s terms, we would say that they were Christians, even though this word was only used much later to describe the followers of Jesus.

Through the Word, I can conclude that these disciples, whom we read of in Acts chapter 1, who were with Jesus on the Mount of Olives, already had the Holy Spirit in them. We read in John 20:22 (in another instant) that Jesus

“...breathed on them” and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. It is important to understand that here on the Mount of Olives, moments before Jesus departed, the disciples present with Jesus already had the Holy Spirit.

3. Instructions to wait for the power.

Keep in mind that despite the points mentioned above, Jesus, just before His departure, instructed these disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4 “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised,...” and then in verse 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”

It is interesting to note that these followers of Jesus, who already believed in Him and called Him Lord and Master, were instructed to go and wait for something unknown. They were specifically instructed not to leave until they had received the Power of the Holy Spirit.

4. Empowered to witness.

This brings us to the next point I want to touch on. This empowering was always meant to equip them to witness. “To go into all the world.” I believe that this empowering or filling is something that needs to happen regularly. In Acts.1:8 the Word is clear: “ ... you will receive power... and you will be my witnesses...”

5. Every born-again Christian has the Holy Spirit within him.

This was my personal experience. There came a moment in my life when I was convicted of my sin, and humbling myself before Jesus, I invited Him to be my Lord and Master. This happened through the work of the Holy Spirit, who touched my spirit and made it alive in Jesus.

Later in life, I had another very powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit, which filled my heart with joy and courage. I wanted to go to the ends of the earth to share Jesus with Muslim people.

This was also the experience of my wife, father, mother, and many other friends I know. Although every Christian has the Holy Spirit, it does not mean that every Christian has been empowered or **filled** with the Holy Spirit. This is an important point to relate to your disciple. Encourage him

to be filled with the Holy Spirit like Paul encourages us in Ephesians 5:8, and in this way, he will be empowered to be a witness. This was how it worked in our lives.

How to experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit:

1. Sincerely **desire** to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39).
2. **Confess** your sins. By faith, thank God that He has forgiven all of your past, present and future sins because Christ died for you (Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1; 2:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-17).
3. **Surrender** every area of your life to God (Romans 12:1-2).
4. By **faith**, claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit, according to:
 - *His Command*: Be filled with the Spirit. “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).
 - *His Promise*: He will always answer when we pray according to His will. “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14, 15).

We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. However, true prayer is one way of expressing your faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

“Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and therefore I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ’s death on the cross for me. I now invite Jesus to again take His place on the throne of my life. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit, as You promised in Your Word that You would, if I asked in faith. I now thank You, Lord, for directing my life and filling me with the Holy Spirit.”

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If so, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit right now and trust Him to do so.

How do you know that you are filled (directed and empowered) with the Holy Spirit?

1. Did you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you know that you are now filled with the Holy Spirit? On what authority? (On the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:22-23.)
3. Do not depend upon feelings. The promise of God's Word, not our feelings, is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.

How to walk in the Spirit:

Faith (trust in God and His promises) is the only means by which a Christian can live a Spirit-led life. As you continue to trust Christ moment by moment:

1. Your life will demonstrate more and more the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and you will become more conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
2. Your prayer life and study of God's Word will become more meaningful.
3. You will experience His power in witnessing (Acts 1:8).
4. You will be prepared for spiritual conflict in the world (1 John 2:15-17), against the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17), and against Satan (1 Peter 5:7-9; Ephesians 6:10-13).
5. You will experience His power to resist temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 1:19-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 6:1-16).

Baptism and being filled with the Holy Spirit are available to every believer. The Holy Spirit is not a merit badge or a medal earned by an elite few. He is not a level of spirituality achieved through effort or time. He is a gift freely poured out upon those who will ask and receive, even the newest young believer.

As Jesus says, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Luke 11:13). There are those who don’t know what they’ve been missing. They assume that the run-of-the-mill Christianity is all that’s available.

Perhaps you were one of those before you picked up this book. By now you know that is not the case. By way of reminder, here are just a few of the benefits and blessings friendship with the Holy Spirit brings:

1. *Comfort.* Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Comforter. He is a constant presence in our lives, ready and able to infuse us with peace and assurance (John 14:15–17; 1 Corinthians 14:3).
2. *Conviction.* One of the Holy Spirit’s roles is to convict us that we need God and to show us that we are separated from Him. Then He draws us to Jesus, the only answer to that need, and finally convinces us that we have been put in right standing with God through Him (John 16:8–11).
3. *Counsel.* The Holy Spirit is the Counsellor who leads us into all truth and shows us things to come. He enables us to avoid pitfalls, helps us avoid self-inflicted wounds, and gives us the perfect words to say in difficult circumstances (John 16:13; Acts 16:6).
4. *Fellowship.* The Holy Spirit is an ever-present companion and friend who happens to be God. (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1).
5. *Gifts.* The Spirit of God comes with gifts designed to equip us for maximum usefulness in God’s kingdom. When we receive and operate in these gifts, the whole body becomes stronger, healthier, and more fulfilled (Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12:1–10; 14:1; Hebrews 2:4).
6. *Fruit.* The more the Spirit is free to operate in our lives, the more fruit we tend to bear. If you need more love, peace, patience, kindness, or any other good thing in your life, you simply need to yield more of yourself to the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 5:9).
7. *Revealed mysteries.* The Holy Spirit can bring us insight and understanding that is unavailable through any other means. This

- includes revelation of God's plans and purposes as well as helpful knowledge of the keys to solving seemingly unsolvable challenges (1 Corinthians 2:6–12).
8. *Prayer help.* The Holy Spirit is ready and available to help us pray more effectively and to actually pray through us. Many Christians find prayer dull and lifeless because they never open themselves to the ministry of the Spirit (Romans 8:26; 1 Corinthians 14:15).
 9. *Power.* The power to be effective witnesses, to be bold, to understand the Bible, and to pretty much do everything the Christian life is supposed to involve comes from the indwelling, baptising Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; 10:38; Romans 15:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:5).
 10. *Liberty.* True freedom is a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's a work we must authorise and cooperate with (Romans 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:17). And there's so much more. It's amazing to contemplate all the things the Holy Spirit stands ready to do in the believer's life.

When you contemplate this reality, it is even more incredible that so many Christians continue to say “No thanks” to His work in their lives. Some continue to allow fear, misinformation, religious prejudice, or just plain old-fashioned pride to keep them from throwing the door of their hearts wide open to a God who loves them and only wants the best for them.

Conclusion

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a vital and ongoing process in the life of every believer. While all Christians receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, being filled with the Spirit requires a conscious and continuous surrender to God's will. As Scripture teaches, this infilling empowers believers to live righteously, bear spiritual fruit, and serve as effective witnesses for Christ.

The disciples' experience in Acts demonstrates the importance of waiting upon and seeking the Holy Spirit's power. Though they already had the Spirit, they were instructed to wait for His empowering presence. This distinction between receiving and being filled with the Spirit highlights the

believer's need for ongoing spiritual renewal. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event but a daily necessity.

Many believers hesitate to embrace the fullness of the Spirit due to misunderstandings, theological differences, or fear of being considered too radical. However, Scripture is clear that the Holy Spirit is not an optional part of the Christian life—He is an essential and active presence, offering comfort, guidance, conviction, and power. His gifts equip us for ministry, while His fruit shapes our character to reflect Christ more fully.

Experiencing the Spirit's fullness requires desire, repentance, surrender, and faith. God's promise is clear: those who ask will receive. Living a Spirit-filled life transforms prayer, strengthens faith, and enables victory over sin. Through His power, believers find true freedom and the ability to fulfil their God-given calling.

Ultimately, embracing the Holy Spirit's infilling is about saying "yes" to God—allowing Him to lead, shape, and empower us daily. In doing so, we experience the abundant life that Christ promised and walk in the fullness of His presence and purpose.

Evaluation

Here are some questions you could ask your disciple to determine if he truly understands the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

1. Where is the Holy Spirit right now in relationship to you?
2. What does it mean to be "indwelt by the Holy Spirit"?
3. At what point does a person become indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
4. What does it mean to be "filled by the Holy Spirit"?
5. If a person asked, "How can I be filled by the Holy Spirit?" what would you say?
6. Would you say that the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a singular occurrence, or does it happen many times?
7. Why is it important to confess our sins to God? How does one go about doing this?
8. What would you say is the Holy Spirit's primary work on earth right now? 

Chapter Fourteen

Spiritual Warfare

Objective

The disciple now has a basic understanding of the fundamental facts concerning adversity, Satan, temptation and sin.

Biblical basis

God wants us to know the facts regarding the works of Satan, the consequences of following Satan, how to escape his influences, and how to pick ourselves up when we fall spiritually. As I've suggested numerous times before, why don't you look at the following passages of Scripture and jot down a summary of each in your discipling notebook?

Psalm 37:23-24	1 John 2:1-2	Ephesians 6:10-18
Luke 22:31-32	Psalm 145:14	1 John 4:4
1 Peter 5:8-10	Ephesians 4:27	Micah 7:8
Psalm 119:9-11	1 John 2:12-14	James 4:7-8
2 Corinthians 2:11	Proverbs 24:16	1 John 5:3-5

Definition of Spiritual Warfare

From a Christian perspective, spiritual warfare is the ongoing struggle between the forces of God and the forces of darkness, which seek to undermine God's purposes in the world. The Bible teaches that believers are engaged in a spiritual battle, not against physical enemies but against unseen powers.

Ephesians 6:12 states:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

This verse underscores the nature of spiritual warfare, emphasising that the battle is not against human adversaries but against spiritual forces of evil.

How to Engage in Spiritual Warfare Practically

Engaging in spiritual warfare requires intentional action and reliance on biblical principles. Below are five practical ways Christians can wage spiritual warfare effectively:

1. Putting on the Armour of God

The Apostle Paul instructs believers to wear the full armour of God to stand against the devil's schemes. This comprises truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

Ephesians 6:13-17:

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

2. Prayer and Fasting

Prayer is a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare, allowing believers to communicate with God and seek His intervention. Fasting intensifies prayers and strengthens spiritual resolve.

Matthew 17:21:

"Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

3. Using the Word of God

The Bible is described as the "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians.6:17), a powerful tool for resisting the enemy. Jesus Himself used Scripture to counter Satan's temptations.

Matthew 4:4:

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

4. Resisting the Devil

Christians are called to actively resist Satan's attacks by submitting to God and standing firm in faith.

James 4:7:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

5. Living a Holy Life

A life of holiness and obedience to God, fortifies believers against spiritual attacks. Sin opens doors to the enemy, while righteousness provides spiritual protection.

1 Peter 1:16:

“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Some fundamental facts to remember:

1. Becoming a Christian doesn't mean you will no longer have problems, but you now have the supreme problem-solver of the universe living within you

Deuteronomy 31:8

1 Peter 5:7,8

Romans 8:36-39

John 16:33

Isaiah 41:10

John 16:1-4

2 Timothy 3:12

Acts 14:21,22

1 Corinthians 10:13

Psalms 34:7

2 Peter 2:9

John 17:14,15

John 15:18-21

2. The difficulties you will experience as a Christian will come from one of four sources:

a. Natural consequences of foolish actions – Hosea 8:7; Galatians 6:7.

I am referring to things like hitting your finger with a hammer, catching a cold because you did not dress warmly enough or having your car repossessed because you did not make the payments. We know that God can use these things to accomplish his purposes, but usually they are simply due to natural laws of the universe.

b. The temptations of Satan.

Satan's number one activity all day and every day is to try to persuade you to

disobey God. 1 John 2:15-16 tells us that these persuasions will come from one of three directions:

1. *The lust of the flesh* - the misuse of your natural appetites for food, sex, comfort, pleasure, etc.
2 Samuel 11:2-4; Matthew 4:2-3.
2. *The lust of the eyes* - the compulsive desire to possess things; materialism; wanting whatever one sees.
Matthew 4:8; 2 Timothy 4:10.
3. *The pride of life* - the compulsive pursuit of fame, power, recognition, exaltation in the eyes of others; anything that might supplant God's position of priority in your life; pursuits that could take God off the throne and put you on it. Matthew 4:5-6; Obadiah 3.

c. *The discipline of God as a consequence of sin*

God loves His children, and no loving father allows his children to stray into forbidden territory without administering discipline. Just as our earthly children need to know that undesirable behaviour has negative consequences, we, as children of our heavenly Father, need to expect His loving—albeit not enjoyable—correction when we err. It's for our own good. Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 3:11-12; Revelation 3:19.

d. *The testing of God designed to cause spiritual growth*

We often experience adversity because God is working in us. Like a coach putting his athletes through rigorous workouts to produce top contenders, God puts us through tough training to make us mature, useful to the Master, and prepared for service. Psalm 119:71,75; John 12:27; Hebrews 5:8; Isaiah 30:20-21; 2 Corinthians 12:7.

3. Adversity caused by any one of these four sources is allowed by God through a perfect blending of two biblical principles:

- Galatians 6:7-8 - One reaps what one sows, good or bad.
- Romans 8:28 - God can turn even the bad into good.

While it is true that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life, not every step and every facet of His plan is what we would term “wonderful.” A foundational law of the universe is that you will reap what you sow.

Every cause has an effect, and God has instituted these laws, both physical and spiritual, to keep His creation running smoothly. These laws are entirely impersonal. If you break them, they’ll break you, no matter who you are.

4. Temptation is not to be resisted but to be fled from. Satan, on the other hand, is not to be fled from but to be actively resisted.

Matthew 4:11; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Peter 5:8-9.

5. Salvation does not give us a license to sin; sin interrupts fellowship with God. Isaiah 59:2; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 1 Peter 4:1-2.

6. When you sin, confession, humble repentance, and reappropriating the filling of the Holy Spirit will:

- restore you to a right relationship with God.
- We’re all going to slip up and sin from time to time – Psalm 14:3.
- Jesus has already paid for our sins – Colossians 1:13-14.
- God is in the business of forgiving and forgetting sin – Isaiah 43:25.
- To experience cleansing and restoration in your relationship with God, confess your sin to Him – Psalm 66:18.

7. It does not matter how badly you mess up;

- God still loves you - Romans 5:8
- God fully accepts you - Ephesians 1:6-7
- God wants you to become like Jesus Christ - Romans 8:28-29.

The importance of spiritual warfare today

In the modern world, spiritual warfare remains crucial for Christians. Here are three reasons why it is essential:

1. Protection from deception

The Bible warns against false teachings, ideologies, and philosophies that seek to lead believers astray. Engaging in spiritual warfare helps Christians discern truth from deception.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (KJV): “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.”

2. Victory over temptation and sin

In a world filled with moral decay and temptations, spiritual warfare equips believers to stand firm in their faith and resist sin – Galatians 5:16 (KJV): “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

3. Advancing God’s Kingdom

Spiritual warfare is vital for spreading the gospel and overcoming spiritual barriers that hinder the work of God – Matthew 16:18 (KJV): “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Conclusion

Spiritual warfare is an ever-present reality for Christians, encompassing the struggle between God’s divine purpose and the forces of darkness. The Bible clearly states that believers are engaged in a battle not against flesh and blood but against unseen spiritual forces. Understanding the nature of this conflict equips Christians with the necessary tools to stand firm in their faith, resist temptation, and grow spiritually despite adversity.

Engaging in spiritual warfare requires both knowledge and action. The Scriptures provide clear guidance on navigating this struggle: by putting on the armour of God, immersing oneself in prayer and fasting, wielding the Word of God as a weapon against deception, and living a holy life that fortifies one against the enemy’s attacks. These disciplines strengthen

individual believers and contribute to advancing God's kingdom in a world rife with moral and spiritual challenges.

Adversity, temptation, and trials are inevitable in the Christian's journey. However, they also serve as opportunities for spiritual growth rather than mere obstacles. Whether difficulties arise from natural consequences—the enemy's temptations, divine discipline, or God's testing—they are all under His sovereign control. Christians must recognise that while the battle is fierce, victory is assured for those who remain steadfast in faith. God's promises of protection, guidance, and restoration assure that no struggle is faced alone. Ultimately, spiritual warfare is not a battle of despair but one of triumph through Christ. Temptation is to be fled from, Satan is to be actively resisted, and sin is to be repented of. Through God's grace, forgiveness, and empowerment, believers can confidently face life's challenges, knowing they are fully accepted and loved by Him. With vigilance, faith, and obedience, they can walk victoriously in the path God has set before them.

Evaluation

- **Adversity:** Does your disciple understand that adversity is a normal part of the Christian life?
- **Satan:** Does he understand that Satan is a personal being who, with his demons, is constantly seeking to entice the followers of Jesus to rebel against God?
- **Temptation:** Does he understand that he needs to FLEE temptation and RESIST Satan?
- **Sin:** Is he convinced that even though sin interrupts fellowship with God, God still loves and accepts him fully as his child? 

Personal notes



Chapter Fifteen

Generosity

Objective

In this chapter, I want to share one of the most personal and transformative lessons I've learned as a follower of Jesus: **generosity**. For many years, I struggled to understand giving. No one discipled me in this area, and in my early Christian walk, conversations around money were often avoided. I had to find my way through trial and error.

The goal of this chapter is to establish the principle of generosity in the life of the person that you are discipling, of course, before you transfer this principle, the question you need to answer is: "Is this something that is established in my own life?". My goal in writing this is to offer insight into what the Bible says about generosity and to share real-life lessons that have shaped my conviction: that all I have belongs to God, and that He can have anything from me, at any time.

The Biblical foundation of generosity

As I studied Scripture and grew in my walk with God, I began to realise that generosity isn't just a good idea—it's a deeply spiritual principle. It is central to the Christian life, and the Bible is full of instruction, encouragement, and even commands to give. These verses became foundational for me:

Luke 6:38 – *"Give, and it will be given to you..."*

Acts 20:35 – *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

2 Corinthians 9:6 – *"Whoever sows generously will also reap generously."*

2 Corinthians 9:7 – *"God loves a cheerful giver."*

Matthew 6:21 – *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Proverbs 11:25 – *"A generous person will prosper..."*

Malachi 3:10 – *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse..."*

Philippians 4:19 – *"God will meet all your needs..."*

Deuteronomy 15:10 – *"Give generously... without a grudging heart."*

Hebrews 13:16 – “*Do not forget to do good and to share with others.*”

These scriptures helped reframe my thinking and taught me that generosity is not about law or duty—it’s about love, faith, and obedience.

What is generosity?

I spent time wrestling with how to define generosity. The dictionary definitions felt flat and unhelpful. I wanted something rooted in Scripture and lived experience. Eventually, I came to my own understanding:

“Generosity is the commitment to live with, and have the attitude that all I have comes from God, and He can have whatever He wants from me, whenever He wants it.”

This was no longer about percentages or rules; it was about surrender.

God’s storeroom

One of the most life-changing verses for me in my understanding of generosity is **Luke 6:38**:

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

This verse was not merely inspirational—it completely reoriented the way I think about giving. I had read it before, of course, but it wasn’t until I truly studied it in context and saw it in light of my own experiences that it took root in my heart. For the first time, I saw that generosity wasn’t just about obedience—it was about the **measure** I chose to use and how that determined the measure God would use when giving back to me.

Understanding the “Measure” in Luke 6

Jesus uses very vivid language in this passage. When He says, “*a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over,*” I imagined a container—maybe a sack or jar—being filled to absolute capacity. I thought of someone packing grain, pressing it down, shaking it to remove empty spaces, and

then pouring in more until the contents overflowed. This picture captured my imagination. God doesn't give in half-measures. When He gives, it's full, overflowing, abundant.

But the key here is this: **with the measure I use, it will be measured back to me.** That was the part that really convicted me. If I give with a teaspoon, God will use that same teaspoon when pouring back into my life. If I give with a generous bucket, God will return with that same-sized bucket. This principle isn't about manipulation—it's about alignment with God's nature.

A Holy Imagination: The storeroom of heaven

As I meditated on Luke 6:38, a picture formed in my mind. I imagined a storeroom in heaven—maybe like a divine cupboard or locker. In this storeroom, I pictured containers lined up on shelves, each one labelled with the names of God's children. Somewhere in that divine storehouse, there was a container with my name on it.

I imagined God walking into this storeroom when one of His children comes to Him in need. He approaches the shelf, finds your name or mine, takes down the container labelled with our name, and uses it to measure out what He'll pour back into our lives. If we've been giving with a thimble, then a thimble it is. If we've given with a one-liter jug, then that becomes the measure.

This image, though imaginative, helped me grasp a deeply spiritual truth. **God honors the measure we choose to give with.** He's not stingy, but He is consistent. His response is aligned with the posture of our heart.

God is always faithful—But we set the capacity

Now, let me be clear: this isn't about earning God's love or blessing. God is good and faithful even when we aren't. I've seen His grace cover me even when my giving was reluctant or minimal. But what I've learned—especially through the lean seasons of ministry—is that **generosity creates capacity.**

When I give more, I open myself to receive more. Not just financially, but in faith, trust, and peace.

There was a time when I prayed earnestly for financial provision. We were in need, and I was asking God to step in with abundance. I imagined Him hearing my prayer, walking over to His storeroom, opening the cupboard, and saying, “Here’s your container.” And when I saw it in my mind’s eye, it was small—because I had given sparingly. That thought hit me hard. I realised I was expecting a flood from God when I had only allowed a trickle in my own giving.

It was never about God withholding blessings—it was about me limiting the measure. If I wanted to see abundance, I needed to increase my capacity. That meant giving more, trusting more, and obeying more consistently.

The power to upgrade

The beautiful part of Luke 6:38 is that Jesus doesn’t just point out a principle—He gives us an opportunity. **We can upgrade our measure.** If we’ve been giving with reluctance or fear, we can change. We can choose to give more generously, more joyfully, more consistently.

I’ve done this in my own life, not just once, but again and again. I started out giving small amounts when it was convenient. Then Petro and I committed to a percentage—starting at five, then ten, eventually reaching twenty percent of our income. Every increase was a stretch, but every time, we saw God’s faithfulness meet us.

Every time I “upgraded my measure,” it felt risky. It tested my faith. But it also changed the way I saw my finances and increased my dependence on God as my true provider.

Giving releases blessing

Some might say that this approach veers into prosperity theology. I understand that concern, and I want to clarify: I don’t give to get rich. I give because **everything I have belongs to God**. I give because He gave

first. I give because Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. The blessings I've received—peace, provision, testimonies of breakthrough—are just the fruit of a life surrendered in this area.

Still, I've seen the spiritual law of sowing and reaping in action. When I've given generously, things have happened that I can't explain. Financial provision, divine timing, miraculous favor. One time we gave away our car. That simple act seemed so radical at the time—but shortly after, we received household appliances we desperately needed, all as unsolicited gifts. God moved in ways that made it clear: our act of obedience had activated something in the spiritual realm.

What is your measure?

So, now I often ask myself—and others—this question: **What is the size of your measure in God's cupboard?** If God pulled it out today, would it match the size of your current need? Have you made room for Him to pour back into your life?

If not, the good news is that we can upgrade. We can choose a bigger measure today. It's not about impressing God; it's about aligning our hearts with His. It's about saying, "Lord, I trust You with everything. Take what is Yours."

The principle that changed my life

Luke 6:38 has become more than a memory verse to me—it's a lens through which I see generosity. It's a reminder that God is both just and generous, and that I get to participate in His economy through faith-filled giving. The storeroom in heaven may be a metaphor, but the principle behind it is real: **the measure I use is the measure He uses.**

That realization has set me free. It has helped me give without fear. And it has taught me that I will never, ever outgive God.

My journey with the Principle of First

For many years, I believed that giving my tithe—the first ten percent of my income—was an Old Testament law no longer required in the New Covenant. I reasoned that I was now under grace, not law, and God surely wouldn't expect me to give rigidly. I gave when I could, and thought that was enough.

But as I grew in my faith, God challenged this belief through His Word. I began to realise that the **principle of first** wasn't about legalism—it was about **honouring God** with what was already His. It was about **priority**, **trust**, and **worship**. This principle isn't about obligation—it's about love.

Learning from Cain and Abel

One of the foundational stories that changed my perspective was that of Cain and Abel:

“In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.” – Genesis 4:3–5

This passage taught me that God wasn't merely looking for “something”—He wanted the **first** and **best**. Abel gave the **firstborn**; Cain gave “some.” That detail made all the difference. It wasn't favouritism—it was a matter of the heart.

Later, as I studied God's commands in Exodus, I saw this principle again: *“The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males of your livestock, whether from herd or flock.” – Exodus 34:19*

“Redeem all your firstborn sons. No one is to appear before me empty-handed.” –Exodus 34:20

This wasn't about livestock – it was about **putting God first in everything**, including finances.

Giving like God gave

This principle hit even deeper when I considered God's own example:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." – John 3:16
God gave His **first** and only Son—not His leftovers. He gave **sacrificially** and **intentionally**. If He could do that for me, how could I not trust Him with the first part of my income?

Making it practical: What we changed

Once Petro and I understood this, we changed our approach completely. No more waiting to see what was left at the end of the month. Now, when we received our income, we immediately set aside our **first fruits** for God. Whether it was 10%, 12%, or 20%, we gave it first—before rent, groceries, or bills. The principle is simple:

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."

– **Proverbs 3:9**

And we saw the promise fulfilled:

"Then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." – **Proverbs 3:10**

Taking stock: A wake-up call

We did a very honest exercise. We calculated our total income for the year and compared it to what we had given to God's Kingdom—church, missions, ministries. To our surprise, although we considered ourselves generous people, the actual percentage was much lower than we thought.

We were convicted. We committed to **increase our giving annually**. First 5%, then 10%, then 12%, and eventually 20%. And each time we increased our giving, God met our needs. Sometimes miraculously.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven..." – **Malachi 3:10**

Faith in uncertain times

Even in difficult seasons—like during the COVID-19 pandemic—when our income dropped by 25%, we **refused to cut back** on our giving. We cut in other areas, but we kept our commitment to give God first. And God came through.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God...” – **Hebrews 11:6**

He moved in people’s hearts, raised up new partners, and even gave us a financial surplus by year’s end. That had never happened before—especially not in such a difficult year.

Why the First matters

The first fruit principle isn’t about numbers. It’s about **trust** and **honor**. God doesn’t need my money, but He deserves my priority.

If I pay all my bills and then decide what’s left to give to God, I’ve placed Him last, not first. But if I set aside my giving immediately when I receive my income, I am saying, “Lord, You are my **first priority**. I trust You to help me live on the rest.”

Final thoughts: It all belongs to God

At the end of the day, giving the first to God is not about **losing something**—it’s about recognizing **everything already belongs to Him**.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

– **Psalms 24:1**

When I give, I’m not parting with my possessions—I’m returning what was never mine to begin with. I’m simply saying, “Lord, You are the owner, and I am the steward. You come first.”

What I’ve learned about living generously

My journey with generosity has been full of ups and downs. I didn’t grow up naturally inclined to share, but through time, obedience, and God’s

faithfulness, giving has become one of the greatest joys of my life. Here are the lessons that I've learned—lessons that you can apply to your life as well.

1. Generosity must be learned

As a child, I struggled to share, and even as a young adult, I felt uncertain and sometimes resentful about giving. But I learned that generosity can be cultivated. It doesn't come overnight—it starts with small steps and consistent obedience.

2. It's deeply personal

Generosity is a reflection of our relationship with Jesus. No one else can determine for you how to give. I had to be honest with God and let Him change my heart, bit by bit.

3. God is the source

In our years of ministry, especially after leaving the police to live by faith, I learned that God provides—always. Not through heavenly cheques, but through His people. My faith grew as I saw Him meet every need through unexpected and sometimes miraculous provision.

4. Obedience unlocks blessing

One of the most defining moments of my life was when I gave away my last \$70 during a church service. God met that step of faith with a \$300 gift from a stranger. It wasn't about the amount—it was about my heart and obedience. Again and again, when I've said "yes" to giving, I've experienced God's abundant provision.

5. The Principle of First

I used to think tithing was an outdated Old Testament practice. But when I studied Scripture more deeply, I saw that giving the first to God (not the leftovers) is a timeless principle. It's not about law—it's about honour. Just as God gave us His first (Jesus), I now give Him my first in return.

6. You can't outgive God

This is one of my strongest convictions: every time I have increased my giving, God has increased His provision. Whether it was giving away \$1,000, a car, or maintaining our 20% giving during financial crises like COVID-19—God has always come through.

7. Giving changes your perspective

I once imagined a picture of heaven where my measure of giving is stored in a heavenly cupboard. God gives back using the same measure I've given with. That visual helped me see how giving and receiving are linked. If I give with a teaspoon, I receive with a teaspoon. But if I give with a big container, He blesses accordingly.

8. Make it practical

I've found these practices helpful, and I believe they can serve you too:

- **Pray** – Ask God to guide your giving.
- **Study Scripture** – Let the Word renew your mind about money.
- **Take Stock** – Calculate how much you earn and how much you give.
- **Start Small** – Give according to your faith and grow from there.
- **Give First** – Before spending, set aside your gift.
- **Review Annually** – Stretch your faith by increasing your giving year by year.

9. It's a spiritual battle

There have been seasons, like during the pandemic, when I felt tempted to cut back. But I've learned that faith grows under pressure. In those very moments, God has often moved in the most remarkable ways.

10. Generosity brings life

I love the comparison between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. One receives and gives, and is full of life. The other only receives, and nothing can live in it. That visual reminds me that I was made to give—and that generosity brings spiritual vitality.

Why I give

I don't give because I expect to get rich or because I'm trying to earn favour with God. I give because **everything I have belongs to Him**. The day I surrendered my life to Jesus, I gave up ownership of my money, my time, my marriage, my family – meverything. I'm simply returning what is already His. If you want to live with open hands, start now. Take a baby step. Give something today, even if it's small. He can do more than you imagine with your step of obedience.

Evaluate

1. **Can you write your own definition of generosity?**
 - It should reflect surrender, obedience, and faith in God.
2. **Where in your life are you challenged to be more generous?**
 - Make a list, pray over it, and start with one step of obedience.
3. **Have you taken stock of your income and giving?**
 - What percent are you giving? Is it your first fruit or your leftovers?

If you apply these principles, I believe you will experience what I have: the joy, peace, and purpose that comes from living generously before God.

Take some time to reflect on these questions prayerfully. You may want to journal your responses or discuss them with your spouse, a friend, or your small group.

1. **Have you ever avoided giving because you saw it as a rule rather than a relational act of worship?**

What has shaped your current view of tithing or giving?
2. **When you give – of your money, time, or energy – do you give God the “first” or what’s left?**

What might need to shift in your life for Him to truly be first?
3. **How does the reality that God gave His “first” in Jesus Christ inspire or challenge the way you give?**
4. **Do you currently plan your finances to give God your first, or do**



 PART 3

Chapter Sixteen

Holy Communion in a Small Group Setting

The Lord's Supper, also known as Communion or the Eucharist, is a sacred Christian practice that commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Instituted by Jesus Himself during the Last Supper, this observance serves as a reminder of His body broken and His blood shed for the remission of sins. In a small group setting, presenting the Lord's Supper should be done with reverence, proper biblical understanding, and a heart prepared for worship. This chapter will provide a step-by-step guide to leading communion in a small group setting, ensuring it remains biblically sound and spiritually enriching.

Who can present the Lord's Supper?

The question of who can present the Lord's Supper is often debated among different Christian traditions. While some denominations require an ordained minister or church elder to administer Communion, many small group settings allow laypersons to lead the observance. The Bible does not explicitly state that only clergy can preside over the Lord's Supper. Instead, it emphasises the importance of approaching Communion with reverence and remembering Christ. In 1 Peter 2:9, believers are described as “*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.*” This suggests that all believers share in the priestly role of representing Christ.

Jesus Himself instructed His disciples to observe the Lord's Supper as a community (Luke 22:19-20). The early church frequently gathered in homes for this purpose (Acts 2:46). Therefore, in a small group setting, any mature believer who understands the significance of Communion and approaches it with a humble heart may lead its observance. However, the leader must ensure the practice aligns with biblical teaching, fosters unity, and maintains the occasion's solemnity. Guidance from church leadership may also be

beneficial to ensure that the observance is conducted in a manner that honours Christ and edifies the participants.

Biblical Foundation of the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus Christ on the night of His betrayal. The primary scriptural reference is found in the Gospels and reiterated by the Apostle Paul:

1. Matthew 26:26-28 - *"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"*

2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - *"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*

These scriptures show that Communion is a time of remembrance, thanksgiving, and proclamation of Jesus' sacrifice.

A step-by-step guide to presenting the Lord's Supper in a Small Group setting

Step 1: Preparing the elements

Before the small group gathers, ensure that the necessary elements are available:

- Unleavened bread/crackers – Symbolising the body of Christ without sin.
- Grape juice or wine – Representing the blood of Christ.

- Small cups or a shared cup – Depending on preference and comfort level.
- Plates or trays – To distribute the elements reverently.

Step 2: Preparing the participants

Encourage the small group to approach the Lord's Supper with reverence and self-examination.

- 1 Corinthians 11:27-28 - *“So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.”*
- Ask the participants to spend a few moments in silent prayer, confessing sins and preparing their hearts.

Step 3: Opening in prayer

Begin the Communion time with a prayer of consecration, thanking God for the gift of Jesus' sacrifice. A sample prayer might be:

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we partake in this sacred meal, may we remember His suffering, death, and resurrection. We ask that You cleanse our hearts and help us to approach this moment with reverence. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Step 4: Reading Scripture and breaking the bread

Read aloud Matthew 26:26 - *“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’”*

Then, take the bread, give thanks, break it, and distribute it to the group, encouraging them to reflect on Christ's sacrifice.

Step 5: Reading Scripture and sharing the cup

Read aloud Matthew 26:27-28 - *“Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”*

Pass the cup, allowing each participant to drink from it, reminding them of the significance of Christ's shed blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Step 6: Worshipful reflection of the Word and prayer

After partaking in the elements, lead the group in a time of worshipful reflection of the Word and prayer. A song of thanksgiving or quiet instrumental music may be played. Encourage the group to meditate on their personal relationship with Christ.

Psalm 103:2-5 - *"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

Step 7: Closing prayer and encouragement

End with a prayer of gratitude to God and encouragement for continued faithfulness in Christ for the group.

"Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your great sacrifice and the gift of salvation. May this time of communion remind us of Your love and our unity as the body of Christ. Help us to walk in obedience, love, and gratitude. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen."

Encourage participants to remember Christ's sacrifice in their daily lives, living in a way that honours Him.

Conclusion

The Lord's Supper is a powerful and sacred ordinance that strengthens believers' faith and unites Christ's body. When presented in a small group setting, it should be conducted with preparation, reverence, and scriptural alignment.

By following these steps, laypersons can lead their small groups in a meaningful and biblically sound observance of Communion. May the Lord's Supper always be a time of deep reflection, worship, and renewed commitment to Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 - *“Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.”* 

Personal notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.



Chapter Seventeen

Conducting a Small Group/Home Cell: A Step-by-Step Guide

Small group meetings are an effective way to foster community, encourage discussion, and deepen engagement with a shared purpose. A structured approach ensures productivity and meaningful interaction, whether it is a study group, a business meeting, or a faith-based gathering such as a Discovery Bible Study (DBS). In this chapter, I will outline the essential steps involved in conducting a small group, based on the principles highlighted in the provided document, focusing on a DBS setting.

1. Preparing for the meeting

Preparation is essential for a small group's success. The facilitator or leader should outline the agenda, establish the objectives, and ensure the necessary materials are available and ready.

1.1 Defining the purpose

There must be a clear purpose. In a DBS setting, the purpose is to study the Bible, encourage accountability, and grow spiritually as a community.

1.2 Setting the agenda

An agenda helps structure the discussion. A typical small group agenda includes:

- Welcome and introductions (if needed)
- Opening prayer or reflection
- Review of past discussions or actions
- Main discussion/study
- Application and action steps
- Closing remarks and prayer

1.3 Choosing a suitable location

The venue should be quiet, comfortable, and conducive to discussion. Virtual meetings require stable internet connections and access to the applicable technology.

1.4 Inviting participants

Ensure participants are informed about the date, time, location, and topic of discussion well in advance.

2. Starting the meeting

The opening sets the tone for the meeting, creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages participation. The meeting will consist of three sections.

- Every participant should be asked to share about the past week in their lives.
- Reading and studying the Bible together.
- Set goals for the coming week and share prayer requests.

2.1 Prayer and praise

In a faith-based small group like DBS, beginning with prayer invites God's presence in and His guidance. Praise, through songs or spoken words, fosters a spirit of worship and thanksgiving.

2.2 Establishing accountability

Following up on group members is essential for accountability and support.

Some key questions to ask include:

- Have you been reading and reflecting on the Bible daily?
- Have you been consistent in prayer?
- Have you been implementing the lessons learned in previous meetings?

3. Reviewing previous lessons and commitments

Reflection on previous meetings helps maintain continuity and accountability.

3.1 Recalling past lessons

Group members should provide a brief summary of what was learned in the last meeting. This enables everyone to refresh their memory and build upon previous discussions.

3.2 Sharing experiences

Participants should discuss how they applied what they learned. Key questions include:

- How did you obey the teachings from the last lesson?
- Did you share what you learned with anyone else?
- What challenges did you face when applying the lesson?

4. Studying together

The study segment is the core of the meeting. Engaging all participants ensures a deeper understanding and application of the teaching. Varied perceptions make the study interesting and challenging.

4.1 Reading the passage

The selected passage should be read out loud twice to ensure clarity and comprehension.

4.2 Repeating the story

One or more group members should attempt to repeat the passage from memory. This reinforces learning and ensures understanding.

4.3 Discussing the passage

Discussion should be guided by key questions:

- What does this passage reveal about God?

- What does it teach us about people?
- What instructions or warnings does it contain?
- How can we apply this in our daily lives?

Encouraging diverse viewpoints enriches the discussion and allows for deeper insights.

5. Applying the lessons

The practical application of lessons ensures that learning translates into action.

5.1 Immediate application

Encourage participants to implement what they have learned during the session itself. This could include praying for each other, making commitments, or taking immediate action on the lesson.

5.2 Personal commitments

Each participant should answer the following questions:

- How will I obey what I have learned today?
- Who will I share this lesson with?
- Who will I encourage or mentor this week?

Encouraging verbal commitments fosters responsibility and accountability.

6. Giving and community support

Giving is an important aspect of faith-based groups. In a church setting, collecting an offering and deciding how to use it for community support or missions fosters collective responsibility.

7. Concluding the meeting

A proper conclusion reinforces what was discussed and strengthens group cohesion.

7.1 Closing prayer

A closing prayer should include:

- Thanksgiving for insights gained
- Requests for strength to apply lessons learned
- Prayers for personal and group needs

7.2 Setting future plans

Before concluding, decide on:

- the date and time of the next meeting,
- the passage or topic for the following study,
- any actions needed before the next session.

8. Encouraging follow-up

Encouraging interaction between meetings helps maintain engagement and accountability. Suggestions include:

- group chats for discussions and prayer requests,
- personal follow-ups by group leaders,
- encouragement to continue individual study.

Conclusion

Holding a small group meeting requires intentionality and structure. Every step, from preparation to conclusion, encourages a productive and meaningful discussion.

Whether used in a faith-based setting such as a Discovery Bible Study or adapted for other small group meetings, these principles ensure that gatherings remain effective, engaging, and transformational.

Here is how you can structure your *Discovery Bible Study* together:

Pray: Begin the meeting in prayer.

Praise: Worship using song or words.

Ask: For accountability, ask each other questions about their lives.



Look
back

1. Did you read/listen to the Bible and pray every day?
2. How did you obey what you learned from the Bible/last session?
3. With whom did you share the gospel with since we last met?
4. Share prayer requests or testimonies. Then pray for each other.

Study: Learn from the Bible together.



Look
up

1. **Read** the passage being studied out loud twice.
2. **Talk** about the story (What happened first? Then what?)
3. Have some in the group **re-tell** the story from memory.
4. **Ask** these questions one at a time:
 - a. What does this tell us about **God** (Father / Son or Holy Spirit)?
 - b. What does this tell us about **people** (us)?
 - c. What things should we **do**, or **not do**?

Practice: Do what you can to obey the teaching immediately (during the lesson).



Look
forward

- Do:** How will you obey what you have learnt today?
Who will you share this with? Who will you share the Gospel with this week? Tell the group for accountability.
- Give:** Collect an offering and decide as a group what to do with the money (when a church).
- Pray:** Close the meeting in prayer.

The diagram above shows the basic steps to effectively conducting a small group study of the word of God.

Below is a list of verses that can be used to study the Bible for the first 7 weeks. The approach mentioned above can be used to study different themes of the Bible in the small group setting. ☯

1	Repent and believe	Luke 19:1-10
2	Be baptised	Acts 8:26-39
3	Pray	Matthew 6:5-15
4	Go and make disciples	John 4:4-42 (Your story, God's story, bridge, Romans road)
5	Love	Luke 10:25-37
6	Lord's Supper	Luke 22:7-20
7	Give	Mark 12:41-44

Below is a list of topics and bible verses that can be used for studies:

	Topic	Reference
1	In the beginning	John 1:1-3
2	Creation	Genesis 1-2
3	Sin and death	Genesis 2:15-17, Genesis 3
4	Murder	Genesis 4:1-16
5	Flood / Promise	Genesis 6 - 9:17
6	Babel	Genesis 11:1-9
7	Abraham - Promise	Genesis 12:1-5, 15:1-20
8	Abraham - Test	Genesis 22:1-19
9	Joseph - Israel to Egypt	Genesis 37, 39-46
10	Moses	Exodus 1, 4:1-17
11	Deliverance	Exodus 5-15
12	Ten Commandments	Exodus 19:3-6, 20:1-17
13	Everlasting Kingdom	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 7:1-17
14	Elijah	1 Kings 12:25-30, 17:1, 18:16-46
15	Prophecy about the Saviour Jesus - Exile, Jerusalem captured	2 Kings 17:1-23, 25:1-12, 53, Jeremiah 23:5-8
16	Birth of Jesus	Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2-5, Matthew 1:18-21, Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
17	Baptism and Testing of Jesus	Luke 2:52, Matthew 3:1-3, 11, 13, 4:1-11, Luke 4:14, 31-44
18	Calling of Disciples	Luke 5:1-11, Mark 3:14-15

	Topic	Reference
19	Authority over nature	Luke 8:22-25
20	Authority over spirits	Mark 5:1-20
21	Authority over sickness	Luke 5:17-26
22	Authority over death	John 11:1-44
23	The Lost Son	Luke 15
24	The Rich and Poor Man	Luke 16:19-31
25	The Last Supper	Luke 22:1-27
26	Jesus arrested, crucified, buried	Luke 22:39-71
27	Resurrection and Ascension	Matthew 28:1-20, Luke 24:1-8, Acts 1:1-14
28	Holy Spirit / Church	Acts 2:1-47
29	Final remarks / Jesus return	1 Thessalonians 4
30	New Heaven and Earth	Revelation 21-22:6



Personal notes

[illegible]

Chapter Eighteen

Preparing for Baptism

Introduction

Baptism is one of the fundamental sacraments of the Christian faith, symbolising a believer's union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. While different Christian traditions interpret baptism differently, Romans 6 provides a strong theological foundation for its necessity in a believer's life. This chapter examines three key reasons why a new Christian should be baptised:

1. Baptism symbolises dying to sin and living for Christ.
2. It is an act of obedience and a public declaration of faith.
3. It serves as a door into a new life in Christ.

By carefully analysing Romans 6, we will demonstrate why baptism is essential in a believer's spiritual journey.

1. Dying to sin and living for Christ

The Apostle Paul states in Romans 6:3-4: *“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* This passage illustrates that baptism symbolises our participation in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

For a new believer, baptism represents a definitive break from the power of sin. Before coming to Christ, people are enslaved by sin and live under its dominion (Romans 6:6). However, through baptism, one publicly declares a rejection of sin and a commitment to Christ. Just as Christ died and was buried, baptism symbolises the believer's spiritual death to sin. Likewise, as Christ was resurrected, baptism represents the believer rising into a new life governed by righteousness.

In this sense, baptism reinforces the meaning of salvation. Christianity is not merely about intellectual belief in God but about active participation in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It is a living representation of this transformation and an outward confirmation that a believer has left behind their former sinful nature.

2. Baptism: an act of obedience and a public declaration of faith

Baptism is not merely symbolic but also an act of obedience to Christ's command.

In the Great Commission, Jesus instructs His disciples: "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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.*" (Matthew 28:19-20). This command establishes baptism as a fundamental practice for all who choose to follow Christ.

Romans 6 reinforces the necessity of baptism by highlighting a believer's new identity in Christ. Paul emphasises that those who are baptised "*have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness*" (Romans 6:7).

Baptism is not just a personal decision but a declaration of faith and a testimony to others. When baptised, believers publicly proclaim to their family, friends, and community that they have chosen to follow Christ and submit to His lordship.

This public testimony is significant because Christianity is not meant to be lived in isolation. As the body of Christ, the church consists of believers who support and encourage one another. Baptism marks the beginning of a believer's journey within this spiritual family.

By being baptised, a person acknowledges their commitment not only to Christ but also to the Christian community, affirming that they are part of something greater than themselves.

Additionally, baptism fosters accountability. By being baptised in the presence of others, a believer commits to living according to the principles of the Word. This public declaration strengthens their resolve and encourages fellow believers to support them in their faith journey.

3. Baptism: entering into a new life in Christ

In Romans 6:4, Paul highlights that through baptism, believers are “*raised to walk in newness of life.*” This statement summarises the essence of Christian transformation. Baptism is not just a ritual but the beginning of a new life: being empowered to live in righteousness.

In Romans 6:11, Paul writes: “*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*” This verse demonstrates that baptism is not only about leaving behind sin but also about embracing a new existence characterised by obedience to God. In this new life, the believer is no longer ruled by sinful desires but is guided by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11). This transformative aspect of baptism provides believers with assurance. It marks a tangible moment they can recall when they fully committed to following Christ.

Just as Christ’s resurrection was a pivotal event in salvation history, baptism is a defining moment in a believer’s spiritual journey—a transition from a sinful past to a new life of righteousness and holiness.

Moreover, baptism signifies a believer’s incorporation into the body of Christ, the Church. Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:13: “*For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*” This verse underscores the unifying nature of baptism, bringing believers into one family. Through this unity, believers grow in their faith and fulfil their calling to serve God and others.

Conclusion

As Romans 6 emphasises, baptism is an essential step for every Christian believer. It is a powerful symbol of dying to sin and being raised to new life in Christ, an expression of obedience, a public declaration of faith, and an entry into a transformative life of righteousness. Paul’s teachings clarify that baptism is not an optional ritual but a vital component of a believer’s spiritual journey.

For new believers, baptism marks the beginning of a new chapter in their relationship with Christ. It is a moment of surrender, dedication, and

transformation. Through baptism, believers not only identify with Christ's death and resurrection but also embrace their role within the body of Christ. As they emerge from the waters of baptism, they step into a life dedicated to glorifying God, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is evidence of God's grace and the believer's response to that grace. It is a defining moment that shapes their faith journey and empowers them to live in Christ's love and righteousness. As Paul proclaims in Romans 6:14: *"For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."* Therefore, baptism is an act that solidifies a believer's place under God's grace, affirming their identity as a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Questions:

- 1. How does Romans 6:3-4 explain the symbolic meaning of baptism in relation to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection?
- 2. Why is baptism considered an act of obedience and a public declaration of faith according to Jesus and Paul's teachings?
- 3. How does baptism mark the beginning of a believer's new life in Christ and affect their relationship with the Church? 

Personal notes

Chapter Nineteen

The Biblical Model of a Local Church: A Study of Acts 2:37-47

Introduction

The local church is essential to a believer's spiritual journey, providing a place for worship, fellowship, growth, and service. Acts 2:37-47 offers a foundational model of what a local church should look like and why believers should be part of it. This passage describes the early church's formation and highlights key aspects that define a healthy Christian community.

The important aspects of a local church

1. Gospel-centred preaching and teaching

Acts 2:37-38 records how Peter's sermon convicted the hearts of his listeners, leading them to repentance and baptism. A local church must faithfully preach the Gospel and teach sound doctrine to nurture spiritual growth.

2. Repentance and baptism

The response to the Gospel included repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38). A local church should emphasise salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and encourage new believers to publicly declare their faith through baptism.

3. Devotion to the apostles' teaching

In Acts 2:42, the early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching. This demonstrates the importance of continuous learning and adherence to biblical truth.

4. Fellowship and community

The early church gathered regularly for fellowship, sharing meals, and prayers (Acts 2:42,46). A local church should foster strong relationships among believers and provide spiritual and emotional support.

5. Prayer and worship

Acts 2:42 and 47 highlight the importance of corporate prayer and worship. A thriving church should prioritise communal and individual prayer, worship, and seeking God's presence.

6. Generosity and care for one another

The early church shared resources and provided for those in need (Acts 2:44-45). A biblical church should be marked by generosity, love, and mutual support.

7. Evangelism and growth

Acts 2:47 states that the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. A healthy local church should actively evangelise, spread the Gospel, and welcome new believers.

Reasons why we should be part of a local church

1. Spiritual growth and discipleship

Being part of a local church allows believers to grow in their faith through sound teaching, mentorship, and discipleship.

2. Community and encouragement

The church provides a sense of belonging and encouragement, helping believers persevere in faith.

3. Opportunities for worship

Corporate worship is a vital aspect of the Christian life, allowing believers to glorify God together.

4. Service and ministry

The local church provides opportunities for believers to use their gifts in service to God and others.

5. Accountability and spiritual support

A church community helps believers stay accountable for their faith and offers support during challenges.

6. Participation in God's mission

Through evangelism and outreaches, local church members fulfil the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Acts 2:37-47 provides a powerful model for what a local church should be—devoted to God's Word, committed to prayer and worship, engaged in genuine fellowship, and actively evangelising.

Being part of a local church is essential for spiritual growth, encouragement, and participation in God's mission. Every believer should seek to be an active member of a local church that aligns with these biblical principles.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit in the born-again Christian's life and their role in the local church

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine abilities given to believers to equip them for service in the body of Christ. When a person is born again and baptised, they receive the Holy Spirit, who empowers them with spiritual gifts for the edification of the church (1 Corinthians 12:7). These gifts enable the believer to contribute effectively to the local faith community, strengthening unity and advancing God's kingdom. This chapter explores the different gifts of the Holy Spirit as outlined in the New Testament and the role of newly baptised believers in the Christian faith community.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The New Testament provides a list of spiritual gifts, emphasising their divine origin and purpose. These gifts include:

1. Wisdom – the ability to apply God’s truth effectively (1 Corinthians 12:8).
2. Knowledge – a deep understanding of spiritual matters (1 Corinthians 12:8).
3. Faith – extraordinary confidence in God’s power (1 Corinthians 12:9).
4. Healing – the ability to heal diseases by divine power (1 Corinthians 12:9).
5. Miracles – the ability to perform supernatural acts (1 Corinthians 12:10).
6. Prophecy – declaring God’s will and truth (1 Corinthians 12:10; Romans 12:6).
7. Distinguishing between spirits – discernment of spiritual influences (1 Corinthians 12:10).
8. Tongues – speaking in divinely inspired languages (1 Corinthians 12:10).
9. Interpretation of tongues – understanding and interpreting spiritual languages (1 Corinthians 12:10).
10. Service (help) – supporting others in practical ways (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28).
11. Teaching – explaining God’s word clearly (Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11).
12. Encouragement (exhortation) – strengthening and motivating believers (Romans 12:8).
13. Giving – generosity through material support (Romans 12:8).
14. Leadership – guiding and overseeing the church (Romans 12:8).
15. Mercy – showing compassion to those in need (Romans 12:8).
16. Apostleship – founding and leading church movements (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28).
17. Evangelism – spreading the gospel effectively (Ephesians 4:11).
18. Pastoring (shepherding) – caring for and guiding believers (Ephesians 4:11).

The role of the newly baptised believer in the Christian faith community

A newly baptised believer plays a vital role in the Christian faith community.

Five key functions are relevant:

1. Serving in ministry – using their spiritual gifts to meet the needs of the church (1 Peter 4:10-11).
2. Edifying the church – encouraging and strengthening fellow believers (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
3. Spreading the Gospel – participating in evangelism and outreaches (Matthew 28:19-20).
4. Discipleship and growth – learning and growing in faith while helping others mature (Colossians 3:16).
5. Promoting unity – contributing to the harmony and love within the church (Ephesians 4:3-6).

Conclusion

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are crucial in the life of a born-again Christian and the church. They empower believers to fulfil their God-given purposes, strengthen the faith community, and spread the gospel. Newly baptised believers are called to discover and use their spiritual gifts in service, edification, and leadership. Their role is essential in fostering unity, growing in faith, and making disciples. As each believer contributes their gifts, the local church thrives, fulfilling Christ's mission on earth.

Evaluation questions

1. What are three spiritual gifts mentioned in the New Testament, and where are they found in Scripture?
2. How can a newly baptised believer contribute to the local church using their spiritual gifts?
3. Why is it important for spiritual gifts to be used within the Christian community? 

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

Personal notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Prologue

I hope that you have found the material in this manual helpful. I have tried to keep it as practical as possible, giving you, the reader, the freedom to use and adjust the material as you see fit in your unique situation.

The question you now need to answer is: “What is the next step?” May I suggest that you take time to pray and present it to the Lord Jesus? It is my firm conviction that God wants you to use this material to equip someone else. Why not spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and show you someone you can approach to disciple? I believe the Lord has placed someone in your network of relationships whom He wants to reach through you.

The ball is now in your court to muster up the courage and approach this person. Invite them for a cup of tea or coffee and share your heart. You might be surprised to find that the Lord has already prepared someone with a need for you to disciple.

I know that this manual is by no means exhaustive, but it will at least give you the essentials to get started. There is a wealth of material available for use. This manual is simply my attempt to equip you with the basics to begin this exciting journey.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider the next steps and then take them in faith and obedience. This is a marathon, not a short sprint. There will be many obstacles to navigate, but remember—you are not alone.

The Lord Jesus has given each of us the Holy Spirit to guide and help us. May you grow in your faith as you invest your life in others. 



Making the most important decision in your life

Have you felt the tug of God on your heart? Becoming a Christian is one of the most important steps you will take in your life. Part of becoming a Christian means understanding that everyone sins. The Bible says the price or penalty for sin is death. Read on to discover what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Begins With God

The call to salvation begins with God. He initiates it by wooing or drawing us to come to Him.

John 6:44: *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”*

Revelation 3:20: *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in.”*

Human Efforts Are Futile

God desires an intimate relationship with us, but we cannot obtain it through our own efforts.

Have you felt the tug of God on your heart? Becoming a Christian is one of the most important steps you will take in your life. Part of becoming a Christian means understanding that everyone sins. The Bible says the price or penalty for sin is death. Read on to discover what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Separated by Sin

We have a problem. Our sin separates us from God, leaving us spiritually empty.

Romans 3:23: *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

It is impossible for us to find peace with God through our own efforts. Anything we try to do to obtain God’s favour or gain salvation is worthless and futile.

A Gift From God

Salvation, then, is a gift from God. He offers the gift through Jesus, His Son. By laying down His life on the cross, Christ took our place and paid the ultimate price, the penalty for our sin: death. Jesus is our only way to God.

John 14:6: *“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”*

Romans 5:8: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Respond to God’s Call

The only thing we must do to become a Christian is respond to God’s call.

Still wondering how to become a Christian?

Receiving God’s gift of salvation is not complicated. The response to God’s call is explained in these simple steps found in God’s Word:

1) Admit you are a sinner and turn away from your sin.

Acts 3:19 says: *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”*

Repent literally means “a change of mind that results in a change of action.” To repent, then, means to admit you are a sinner. You change your mind to agree with God that you are a sinner. The resulting “change in action” is, of course, the turning away from sin.

2) Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to save you from your sins and give you eternal life.

John 3:16 says: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”*

Believing in Jesus is also a part of repenting. You change your mind from unbelief to belief, which results in a change of action.

3) Come to Him by faith.

In John 14:6, Jesus says: *“I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

Faith in Jesus Christ is a change of mind that results in a change of action - coming to Him.

4) You may pray a simple prayer to God.

You may want to make your response to God a prayer. Prayer is simply communicating with God. Pray using your own words. There is no special formula. Just pray from your heart to God, and believe that He has saved you. If you feel lost and just don't know what to pray, here's a prayer of salvation:

Dear Lord,

I admit that I am a sinner. I have done many things that don't please You. I have lived my life for myself only. I am sorry, and I repent. I ask You to forgive me. I believe that You died on the cross for me, to save me. You did what I could not do for myself. I come to You now and ask You to take control of my life; I give it to You. From this day forward, help me to live every day for You and in a way that pleases You. I love You, Lord, and I thank You that I will spend all eternity with You. Amen.

5) Don't doubt.

Salvation is by grace, through faith. There's nothing you did or ever can do to deserve it. It's a free gift from God. All you have to do is receive it!

Ephesians 2:8 says: "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God.*"

6) Tell someone about your decision.

Romans 10:9-10 says: "*If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*" 



Your Part in World Missions

Operation Mobilization is an international mission organization with ministries in over one hundred and ten nations of the world. Founded in 1957, the ministry has grown from a handful of students to more than six thousand full-time workers from all over the world.

You may be asking where you, as a Christian, fit into God's plan for the salvation of the world. Here are a few ways in which you can become involved right now!

You can pray — Become informed about God's world. Ask for information about missionaries in areas of particular interest to you.

Stand before God on behalf of your brothers and sisters on the mission field. Pray for more missionaries to be called and sent to reach the lost for Christ. Don't be surprised if God uses you to answer your own prayers!

You can give — God has given you the privilege of being responsible for a portion of His money. Decide how much you may keep for yourself, then use the rest to further God's kingdom. One way is to support foreign mission work.

You can send — Look around in your church or community. Seek out another who senses a call to become a missionary, then spur them on and encourage them to further seek God's direction for their life. Adopt missionaries. Give them moral support. Encourage them through letters, tapes or e-mails; let them know that you believe in them and in the work

God has called them to do. Maybe you are in the position to offer them a place to stay or a car to use while they're on home assignments.

You can go — The Great Commission is a call to you, too! You can see the need. Why delay?

Contact us if you want to know more: www.om.org

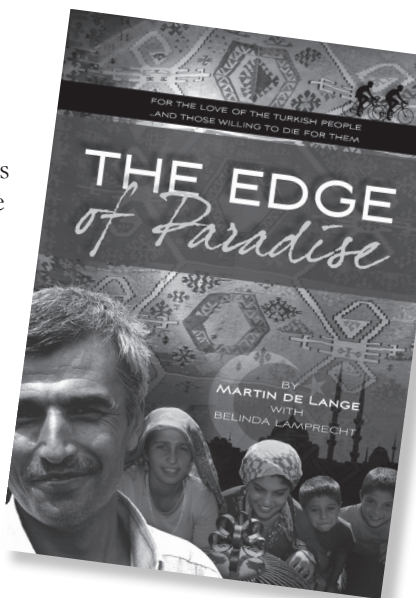
Other books by the author

The Edge of Paradise

Martin de Lange – headstrong, drive and perhaps just a little bit obnoxious– is happy with where life is taking him. Married to Petro, the love of his life, raising his young child and enjoying success in his job as a police forensic photographer, Martin thinks he's got things all sorted out; until, that is, God chooses to do a bit of his own sorting.

Within a few short years, Martin finds the life he thought he'd always wanted completely changed when, stirred with passion for the spiritually lost people in Turkey, he uproots his little family and heads to a new life in the Middle East.

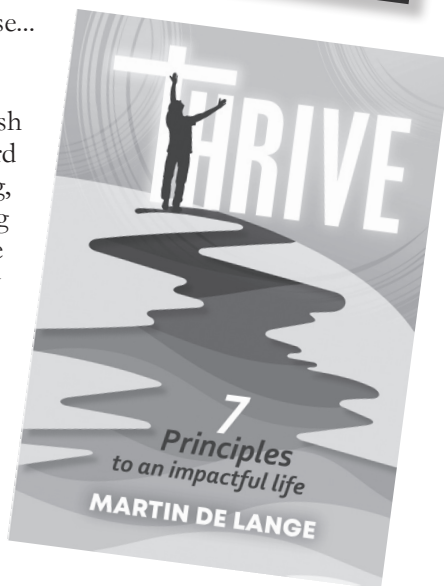
Never knowing what God might have in store for them next, Martin and Petro must learn what it really means to live on the edge of paradise...



Thrive: 7 Principles to an Impactful Life

Martin's vision was to bring Jesus to the Turkish people came with much inner turmoil and outward opposition. Thrive gives insight into the beginning, the development and the challenges of becoming a missionary and how God's faithfulness gave him and his wife Petro rewards of joy and victory that they could not have imagined or even hoped for. Martin's writing is very engaging and as you read, you can feel the reality of the situations he describes.

Long-term service among the least-reached brings joy and fulfilment; our journey can also be accompanied by frustration and pain. In this practical, experience-rooted, biblically-grounded book Martin de Lange points us to seven principles he and his wife have learned and lived. Practical application steps in each chapter may help us move from surviving to thriving, even in challenging settings. Clear, to the point, and practically applied.



For your own copy, please visit: www.martindelange.org