

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

If we claim to be believers in Jesus Christ, it is His command that we follow and serve Him, thus becoming His disciples. (Matt. 16:24; John 12:26) If a person is not being disciplined, according to the standard of the Word of God, he falls into one of two categories. Either he is ignorant of the teachings of Jesus Christ to His disciples or he is in rebellion against God. We are to be wise and fear God. (Prov. 1:7; Prov. 8:33)

Let's read what Jesus has to say about His disciples and discipleship: (John 8:31-32; John 13:35; John 15:8)

We must count the cost in becoming His disciples. (Luke 14:27-28, 33) If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we shall find Him. He will direct our paths and meet every need to accomplish His purposes through us. (Matt. 6:33; Prov. 3:5-6; Phil. 4:19)

In our present day society in the United States we are very comfortable and complacent. This spiritual attitude and state of mind has created an environment that is running unchecked...rampant and lawless. Jesus calls His people to be perfect and He makes a way for His obedient saints. (Matt. 5:48)

First, consider how Jesus loved His Father and the people. (John 17:23) We see that He took time to establish His relationship with His Father and others. He kept those relationships strong. He also helped others do likewise by His perfect example and teachings (Matt. 5, 6 & 7 complete). Likewise, we are to love others not just by being nice to them, but helping to encourage them to grow up into Him in all things. We are to exercise our spiritual giftings to build up the body of Christ for whom He gave His life. Love them this way and you will be loving God as well (1 John 4:7).

### **What is discipleship?**

A discipler must disciple as Jesus disciplined, always with the standard of the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. The discipler and the disciple are to lovingly submit to one another in the fear of God. There must be leadership motivated by love to establish the order performed by Jesus Christ Himself (Heb. 13:17; Eph. 5:21). This is the most intimate expression and contribution into the life of another individual. Discipleship is a generous gift from God, an inheritance of the kingdom of God. It is not a

project or program of man but it is God's divinely ordered teaching unto Godliness. Being disciplined must be the first and foremost objective of devotion in one's life under Jesus Christ (John 14:15; 1 Tim. 4:6; 1 Tim. 6:1-2). A disciple is to have a teachable spirit with passion and commitment to be taught and trained.

### **So Rare and not often found...**

The God ordained leadership of a local church or ministry is to meet regularly with a core of people in private settings sharing honest and sincere innermost issues of life. This group will share the Holy Spirit revelation concerning the work of God now and in the coming days.

One who discipled must be like a father or mother to the disciples under their care so much as one would be to natural children. A discipler will lay down his or her life for the disciple and a disciple will lay down his or her life for the discipler (Gal. 4:19).

God has entrusted His people with giftings and callings. We as believers are to exercise these in all diligence and prove our faithfulness to God by demonstrating His love, patience, grace, and power unto the end (2 Cor. 8:7; Heb. 6:10-12).

The Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth commanded His disciples to fulfill the great commission. To fulfill this command we must both speak and do (Matt. 10:27; Jam. 1:22). As Jesus' disciples He will establish us in every good **word** and **work** (2 Thess. 2:17). It was prophesied in the Old Testament to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Isa. 40:3). The command is the same in the New Testament, making us aware the time is at hand and it is now the time for us to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16).

*Mark 16:15-18 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

*Matt. 28:19-20 [19] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:  
[20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*