



DISCIPLESHIP

THE PATH OF DISCIPLESHIP:
SUPPORTING NEW FOLLOWERS

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UNLOCKING THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Definition of Discipleship:

- Discipleship is a developmental process within the local church.
- Its goal is to guide Christians from spiritual infancy to maturity.
- Equipping them to replicate this process with others.

The Great Commission – A Mandate for All:

- Making disciples is a non-negotiable command from Jesus.
- It stands as the paramount instruction in His earthly ministry.
- It is an absolute command, obligatory for every Believer.

Developmental Process– Growing in Discipleship:

1. Taking on Jesus' Yoke:
 - The cross symbolizes submission, and the yoke symbolizes service.
 - True disciples embrace both commitment to submission and ministry.
2. Continue in the Word:
 - Continual learning and living the Word of God.
 - The purpose is transformative, not just acquiring knowledge.
3. Choosing to Love:
 - Love is a command, a volitional choice.
 - Disciples decide to love, and it's a key aspect of discipleship.
4. Living a Cleansed Life:
 - God doesn't bless unconfessed sin; a cleansed life is essential.
 - The choice: Carnal Christian or Spiritual Christian; discipleship leads to victory.
5. Surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ:
 - Jesus demands absolute allegiance, even above familial ties.
 - Discipleship requires surrendering to Jesus as Lord of all.



THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND YOUR WORSHIP TO GOD

THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said, *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever”* (John 14:16). This Comforter, or friend, that Jesus promised to send is the Holy Spirit.

Scripture likens the Holy Spirit to the wind. You cannot see the wind, but you can see what the wind is able to do. You cannot see the wind, but you can see the power of the wind at work.

You cannot see the wind, but you can feel it as it moves.

The Spirit of God is most certainly like the wind in many ways. He cannot be seen, but His power can become a great help as we endeavor to live the Christian life and serve the Lord our God. He cannot be seen, but His presence and influence most certainly can be felt within the heart and life of any Christian who is yielded to Him.



Faith – The Essence of Discipleship:

- Faith is foundational in the disciple's journey.
- It believes that God is working out His perfect will, even in challenges.
 - Biblical faith, rooted in God's promises, grows through obedience, nourishment from the Word, and facing life's challenges.

Understanding Biblical Faith:

- Described in Hebrews 11:1, faith is the substance of hoped-for things and evidence of the unseen.
- Old Testament saints lived by faith, trusting in the promise of a coming Messiah.
- Faith's origin is in Romans 10:17, emphasizing the importance of knowing God's Word.
- It grows through degrees, requiring prayer, Word nourishment, and acting on God's guidance.

In conclusion, Christian discipleship is a transformative journey marked by commitment, continuous learning, love, cleansing, surrender, and unwavering faith in God's promises.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Unveiling the Personhood of the Holy Spirit:

Dispelling misconceptions: Let us delve into the profound personality of the Holy Spirit, an integral member of the triune Godhead comprising God the Father, Jehovah; God the Son, Jesus Christ the Lord; and God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter/Enabler.

1. INTELLECTUAL BRILLIANCE

- The Holy Spirit possesses unmatched intelligence, discerning the depths of God's wisdom.
- Scripture attests to His intelligence: I Corinthians 2:10,11.

2. EMOTIONAL SENSIBILITY:

- Far from being a mere force, the Holy Spirit experiences emotions, particularly a sense of sorrow.
- His emotional depth is affirmed in Ephesians 4:30.

3. ASSERTIVE WILL:

- A decisive will characterizes the Holy Spirit, evident in His purposeful actions.
- His will is highlighted in I Corinthians 12:11.
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4. PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN DIVINE DISCOURSE:

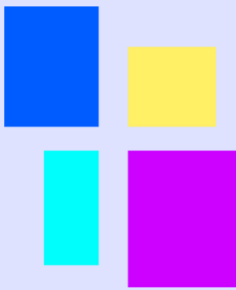
- Jesus, in His teachings, employed personal pronouns "he" and "him" while referencing the Holy Spirit (John 14:16 – 26).
- This intentional choice of language denotes the personal nature of the Holy Spirit.

5. Addressing the Holy Spirit:

- Crucially, our communication should reflect the personhood of the Holy Spirit.
- Instead of impersonal terms like "it," employing personal pronouns is the scriptural approach.

Note: A Living Personality:

- Jesus' intentional use of personal pronouns affirms that the Holy Spirit is not an abstract force but a living, sentient personality.
- His inclusion in the triune Godhead emphasizes His integral role within the divine trinity.



The Holy Spirit interacts as a Person

The Holy Spirit, as a Person:

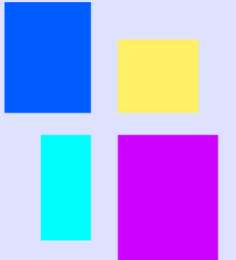
- Can be lied to (Acts 5:3).
- Can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- Can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30).
- Can be quenched (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
- Is to be obeyed (Acts 10:19-22).

Personal acts of the Holy Spirit:

- Teaches (John 14:26).
- Guides (Romans 8:14).
- Intercedes (Romans 8:26).
- Bestows spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).
- Speaks according to scriptural revelations (John 15:26).
- Calls individuals to service (Acts 20:28, Acts 13:2-3, Ephesians 4:7-12).

The Deity of the Holy Spirit:

- He is eternal God (1 Corinthians 3:16).
- Possesses divine attributes of God:
- Omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:10-11).
- Omnipresence (Psalms 139:7-10).
- Omnipotence (Genesis 1:2).
- Truth (1 John 5:6).
- Holiness (Righteousness) (Luke 11:13).
- Life (Romans 8:2; John 10:10).
- Wisdom (Isaiah 40:13).
- Creator (Genesis 1:26).
- Triune (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22).



The Holy Spirit's Ministry in the Believer:

1. Regeneration:

- The Holy Spirit performs regeneration in every believer who receives Christ (Titus 3:5-7, John 3:5, Romans 8:16).
- Regeneration is the point when the Holy Spirit gives spiritual life and establishes communication with God.

2. Indwelling:

- No salvation without being indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19).

3. Sealing:

- The Holy Spirit seals the believer, marking ownership and guaranteeing the inheritance (Ephesians 1:13, 14).

4. Baptism:

- Baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ, the Church (1 Corinthians 12:13a, Romans 6:4).

5. Empowerment:

- Empowers for life and service, ensuring consistent victory over sin (Romans 8:9-11).
- Victory is assured in Christ (Romans 8:31-39).

6. Fruit Production:

- Produces the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) in relation to God, fellowman, and individual Christian life.

7. Guidance:

- Guides the believer's conduct and life (Galatians 5:16).
- Controls and directs every aspect of the believer's life (Psalm 37:23, Acts 13:2-4).

The Holy Spirit ANOINTS the Believer:

- Every believer is anointed by the Spirit to assimilate the truth of God's Word (1 Corinthians 2:12-14, 1 John 2:20).
- The Holy Spirit takes the teaching of the Word and infuses it into our lives.

The Holy Spirit FILLS the Believer:

- Being "filled with the Holy Spirit" is the working of God's Spirit in the daily walk of a believer.
- Ephesians 5:18 commands believers to "be filled with the Spirit," meaning to keep on being filled constantly and continually.
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and empower life involves continually clothing oneself with Christ and letting Him overflow into daily, visible life.

The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit through the life of the believer

The Holy Spirit longs to do His work in your life. However, you must first present your life to Him as outlined in Romans 12:1, 2. In essence, you must give up your ways for His ways, and your will for His will.

The Holy Spirit seeks to control our lives:

- Uncontrolled words cause significant damage (James 3:6, 8; Proverbs 18:8).
- Ephesians 4:29 advises speaking only "Spirit-controlled" words.

The Holy Spirit aims to control:



In summary, yielding to the Holy Spirit's control is essential for proper speech, thoughts, desires, and actions in the life of a believer.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALREADY YOURS BY YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST. LET HIM DIRECT AND EMPOWER YOUR DAILY LIFE BY ASKING HIM TO FILL YOU, KNOWING BY FAITH THAT HE WILL.



WORSHIP, PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD

“Worship is the purest form of adoration we can offer to God. It is initiated in us through God who reveals Himself to us through the Holy Spirit causing us to completely trust and submit ourselves to the Lord. It is giving glory to God with the aid of the Holy Spirit for circumstances or situations that are hard to understand or accept.”

Worship: What is worship:

- In worship, we acknowledge and express who God is.
- Worship demands the submission of our will to God's will.
- Worship is saying yes to everything God requires of us (Romans 8:28; Job 1:20-21).

Old Testament vs. New Testament Worship:

Old Testament:

- Chosen priests (Levites) and a High Priest.
- Limited access to God's presence.
- Temporary covering of sins through animal sacrifices.
- External imposition of God's will.

New Testament:

- All believers are priests through Jesus Christ.
- Access to God's presence for everyone.
- Permanent forgiveness through the blood of Jesus.
- Internal desire to please God.

Jesus' Teaching on Worship:

Jesus introduced a new way of worshiping God: in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

How to worship in Spirit:

The word “spirit” in John 4:24 refers to the human spirit, the inner spiritual being. Worship is not just a matter of being in the right place, at the right time with the right music, though these may aid in worship.

Worship begins on the inside, in the spirit. To worship in spirit we must come to God humbly, with a broken spirit and with an attitude of repentance for our sins and shortcomings. Such a person God will never turn away. When we give ourselves to God in faith with the sincere desire to bless Him, the Holy Spirit makes His presence real to us and gives us the ability to express our love of God.



Worshipping in Truth

Jesus emphasized worshipping in both "spirit" and "truth," indicating a need for an informed, mindful approach to worship.

According to John 17:17, "truth" is defined as the Word of God.

Worshipping in truth means aligning worship with a biblical understanding of Scriptures.

Our worship, based on the truth of God's Word, becomes acceptable to Him.

Guidelines for Worship:

- Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
- Self-examination (Psalm 139:23-24)
- Humility (James 4:10)
- Biblical meditation and adherence (Psalm 1:1-3)
- Learning from Psalm 95 as a guide on worship.

Praise:

Praise involves expressing honor and love for God's mighty acts and benevolence.

God desires praise as it creates a dwelling place for His presence among His people.

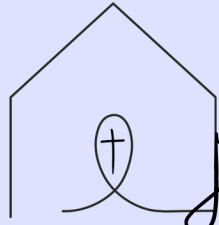
Expressions of praise include lifting hands, clapping, singing, playing musical instruments, rejoicing, and jubilant giving.

Thanksgiving:

Thanksgiving expresses gratitude to God for His goodness, mercies, and gifts.

Praise and thanksgiving are intertwined, giving glory to God.

Psalm 100:4 encourages combining praise and thanksgiving in worship.



H O M E Helping Our Members Evolve

Thank you for joining us in our discipleship class! We hope you found the experience enriching. To stay connected and continue growing in your faith, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our church office is always happy to hear from you



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