

Each One, Win One - 2022

Discipleship: Winning Lost Souls

Disciple - 1 translation in OT (Isa. 8:16)
- 273 translations in NT (majority in the 4 gospels)

Disciple - student, learner, or pupil

Discipleship - is that developmental process that progressively brings Christians from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity so that they are then able to reproduce the process with someone else.

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus gave the Great Commission to the disciples. The phrase “go ye therefore” in KJV actually possesses the idea of “as you are going” about your daily routine to make disciples. As you are going to work, mall, movie theatre, grocery store, car wash, gas station, etc., make disciples, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

I John 4:13-15

John testifies his witness is firsthand knowledge of what he has seen and heard. Witnesses for God are compelled to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth as they know it to be at that time. Witnesses can sometimes be reluctant, hostile, character, expert, percipient, and/or eyewitnesses. The type of witness we give is sometimes determined by the surroundings, people in the crowd, and how we are feeling at that time.

Luke 9:1-5

Jesus gave his disciples over demons, to cure diseases, and to perform other types of diseases and an opportunity to do what he did. Jesus did not wait until after the ascension to try and teach the disciples. They were sent out while he was still on earth and told them to go and do what you’ve seen me do for the last three years.

Also, he told them they would experience great successes as well as some failures. Some would receive them in their houses while others would not. Jesus instructed the disciples not to take anything from the houses of those who reject them. That includes even the dust on the floor.

Luke 10:1-2,17

Jesus sent seventy disciples out to evangelize in pairs. He declared to them that the opportunity for winning lost souls is vast, but those involved in the act of evangelism are few. The seventy returned in a state of disbelief to the success they experienced. They were that even the devils obeyed the disciples in the name of Jesus. The issue presented in Luke 10 is still in existence in the modern-day church. The opportunity for evangelism is great but those engaged in evangelism are still few. The church today can experience the same success as those in Luke 10. Even the demons will obey the church in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4,14,37-38,42

Jesus told his disciples in Acts 1 not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes. Once the Holy Spirit, they would be able to witness to all that they had seen and heard. The Holy Spirit

would give them unseen, miracle-working power so they would witness all over the world. The church through the power of the Holy Spirit has the power to witness all over the world. Acts 2 presents the model the church is to follow for effective evangelism. The Holy Spirit moved upon the disciples causing them to see something, to hear something and to say something. The power of the Holy Spirit allowed Peter to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ with a newfound boldness. The people responded by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, asking what they must do to be saved. The peoples went on to engage in the Five Essentials of Discipleship.

Five Essentials of Discipleship (Acts 2:42)

1. Outreach
 - a. Becoming a Christian means opening your mouth and be a witness. Being a “private” person is no excuse. Most “private” people are private by choice but become quite open and non-private in other settings. When something exciting happens in our lives, all people generally have no problem sharing the news or experience.
2. Bible Study
 - a. When Christ is exciting to you, you can’t keep Him to yourself. When something happens internally, you have to express it externally. Because of what Peter and the disciples experienced in receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4, they had to share the Good News with others and 3000 souls were added to the church. They couldn’t keep it to themselves.
3. Growing in the Word
 - a. Scriptural education is essential to discipleship. This is the process by which the Holy Spirit takes the words off the pages and into our lives. The scriptures equip us to live the Christian life. Our minds need to be renewed (Romans 12:2). A transformed mind comes through the study and practice of the Bible.
4. Fellowship
 - a. Biblical fellowship is not solely the sharing of a meal or getting together to talk about current events. Biblical fellowship is the sharing of our lives with other believers. You cannot become a full, mature Christian in Christ Jesus all by yourself. There is no such thing as a non-churched Christian in the New Testament.
5. Worship
 - a. Worship is the celebration of God for who He is and what He has done. The most important element in worship is what God gets out of it. Worship must be an experience, publicly and privately, and not an event. Worship must be a way of life, publicly and privately, and not a program.

Effective Evangelism Tips

1. Be led by the Holy Spirit
 - a. Ask the Spirit to lead you to those who are searching for more in life and open to God
2. Gain God’s perspective
 - a. Why are you attempting to evangelize? To check a box? Grow the church? Increase local membership? Be a good Christian?
3. Discern soul cravings
 - a. Your purpose, meaning, significance in life

4. Share your story
 - a. God can use your life story and may be the instrument God uses to bring in a lost soul. Others may be encouraged and inspired because their story may be similar to yours.
5. Be empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - a. Be confident God will give you the right words at the right time to speak to the right person. Trust Him. Allow the Holy Spirit to take over the conversation.
6. Remember that people are on a journey
 - a. Each person may be in a different place in their journey. You may have been delivered from what they are going through. Understand, empathize, don't patronize.
 - b. Listen to what they are/are not saying
7. Pray unceasingly
 - a. Prayer is the catalyst that initiates God's will being done on earth.
8. Remember that's it not up to you
 - a. If you have taken the opportunity to talk about Jesus with someone, you have been successful. God determines what the results will be through the Holy Spirit.

Exercise Scenarios

1. Individual is on the verge of accepting Christ
2. Individual is not receptive because of previous church hurts
3. Individual is not interested no matter what and doesn't want to hear anything you have to say