

## Week 12

Keys to remember as we approach this next topic...

- When proper discipleship takes place, the disciple will grow through a seven stage process as he or she walks with God.
- This pattern was established by the Lord Jesus Christ with His twelve disciples and then with the seventy.
- These same seven stages can be observed in the development of the apostle Paul.
- It is important for us to understand these stages and identify where we are in our personal **walk with Christ**.
- Close observation of any Christian will reveal their present stage of spiritual growth.
- This process is not only for pastors, missionaries or those who are called to vocational ministry. ***This process should unfold in the life of every believer.***

### Week 12

#### 6. Spiritual Development and Reproduction (also known as the NT Process of Discipleship)

##### a. The Seven Stages of a Disciple (*follower; learner*)

###### #1 - \_\_\_\_\_ – The starting point

- God desires all men to repent and be saved - Mt. 4:17; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Pet. 3:9
- Repent means to **CHANGE** directions - Mt. 21:28-29
- Genuine salvation will lead to a changed life - 2 Co. 7:10

###### #2 - \_\_\_\_\_ – Getting to know God

- This is the time to “learn of Him,” not to get head knowledge of the Bible.
- In order to be a participating servant (*minister*) in a local church you **MUST** first have a relationship with Jesus - Phil. 3:10-11
- Jesus desires us to know who He is - John 1:1-5, 14; 35-48
- One on one discipleship with a mature believer is God’s plan - 2 Ti. 2:2
- This often happens by accident – we want to do it by design! 1 Ti. 1:16

###### #3 - Life \_\_\_\_\_ (*Ministry Training*) - Applying what you know to life

- Motivation toward public ministry - 2 Co. 5:14
- Knowledge brings **ACCOUNTABILITY**... – Lk 12:48
- Knowledge brings the desire to pass on what has been learned.
- **REPRODUCTION** will result as the follower gets involved publically - Lk. 10
- Practical life application of biblical truth will be observable in disciple’s life:

- \* Follows Christ in **OBEDIENCE** (*baptism; giving; etc.*)
- \* Follows Christ in **SUBMISSION** (*attitude*) Col 3:22-23
- \* Witnesses to others – Acts 4:20
- \* Struggles with problems as the Devil attacks – 2 Tim 3:12; I Cor 15:58

###### #4 - \_\_\_\_\_ Training - Identifying where each believer fits in the body

- Leadership is the key to success - Prov. 29:1-2
- Only a good **follower** can be a leader. Those who do not properly respond to training have **no** business whatsoever in leadership. Mk 9:35
- True leaders will always be found **TRAINING** others.
- True leaders will have followers. False leaders will have “**BLIND**” followers.
- Jesus’ focus was to develop leaders to lead others.
- Leaders are supernaturally selected by God - Mt. 10:1-5; 20:16; John 15:16
- **EVERY** believer, to some degree or another, should be a leader ...

#### KEY

### #5 - Re-evaluation and \_\_\_\_\_ (*Resolved Consecration*) - Time of intense testing

- God proves (**TESTS**) every disciple - 1 Peter 1:6-7; 4:12-13
- This testing is **not** like the normal problems of everyday life.
- This testing is **not** connected to sin in the disciple's life.
- This testing involves a **crisis** that leads to a "point of no return."
- The test leads to an "all our nothing" attitude.
- The results:
  - \* A completely transformed life that will **NEVER** be the same.
  - \* A natural separation from the world ...
- The proper foundation of strong biblical discipleship is key at this point because **everyone** will eventually come to this crossroad. This is to be expected, do not be surprised.
- This proving is often intense and severe - John 6:66-70; 1 Kings 2:1-6; Job 13:15.

### #6 - \_\_\_\_\_ in leadership – The **DEVELOPMENT** of others

- The disciple has clear evidence of **fruit** in his/her life. John 15:5
- This is the time each disciple assumes greater responsibility.
- The disciple now lives out their decisions made during testing time.
- This stage is important because you must put into practice what has been learned.
- No one can properly lead until it is put into **PRACTICE**.
- There are no textbooks that can make a person a leader, it must be learned by experience.
- Leaders exemplify maturity in their character (*temperance, compassion for others, empathy, tolerance to differences*) - Mt. 15:21-32; 20:30-34; 23:37; Luke 19:41-42

### #7 - \_\_\_\_\_ - Spiritual maturity towards our mission

- All major principles of the Christian life have been learned and practiced.
- The disciple knows what he/she is to do because they know God.
- The disciple has a testimony in life that speaks louder than words. Mt 5:16
- The disciple lives from the fruits of his labors - 2 Ti. 2:6; 1 Co. 9:1-7, 14; Joshua 5:10-12; 3 John

**KEY** - The disciple can be commissioned to reach the **WORLD** and is **expected to accomplish that mission**.

#### b. Summarizing the Christian life (*Spiritual Development and Reproduction*)

- Not everyone is called to vocational ministry (*pastor or missionary*), but everyone is called to the ministry. **EVERYONE** can do something important for God. How this calling works out practically in the lives of people will obviously differ. However, **EVERY** believer should come through this process successfully. God gave us a Book and placed His Holy Spirit inside us at the moment of salvation, there is no excuse.

**KEY** Through good times and bad, the key is to always be found...  
"\_\_\_\_\_ with God."