

Discipleship – The Heart of the Christian Life

Matthew 28:18-20

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I. Why is Discipleship Important?

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Is 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

II. What is Discipleship?

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Disciple - **μαθητής**, as one who directs his mind to something learner, disciple, pupil ; in the NT as one who attached himself to a spiritual leader, such as Jesus, John the Baptist; in a broader sense disciple, follower, one who adhered intellectually and spiritually to religious leaders.....¹

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Mt. 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and **learn from me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

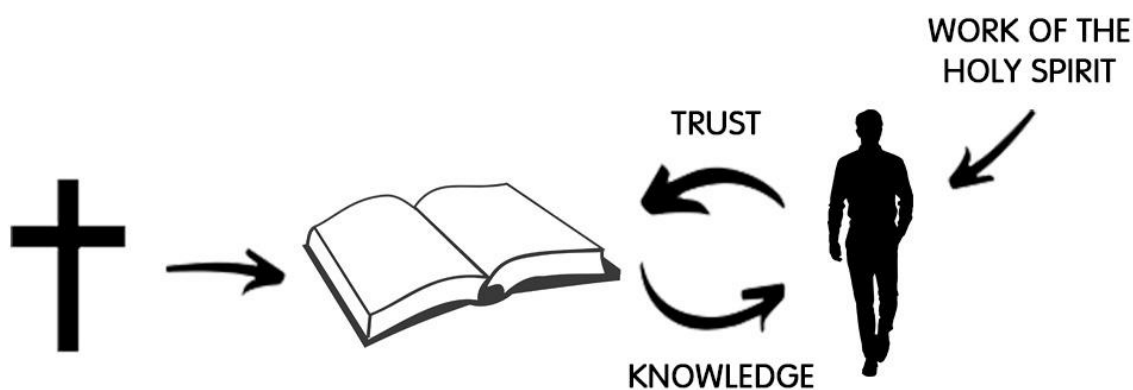
Jn 14:26-27 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will **teach you** all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Eph 3:16-19 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ **so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**—that you, **being rooted and grounded in love**, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ **and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

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Eph 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and **believed in him**, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

The Saving Operation of Faith



SALVATION

¹ Friberg Lexicon. BibleWorks 10

Operation of the Word of Truth

The Word reveals to us God, the holy Ruler of heaven and earth.
The Word reveals our sinfulness to us.
The Word reveals to us our guilt and its punishment.
The Word reveals to us the love of God expressed in the Son.
The Word reveals to us the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ.
The Word reveals to us justification by faith in Jesus Christ.

The saving response of faith

Trusting Christ

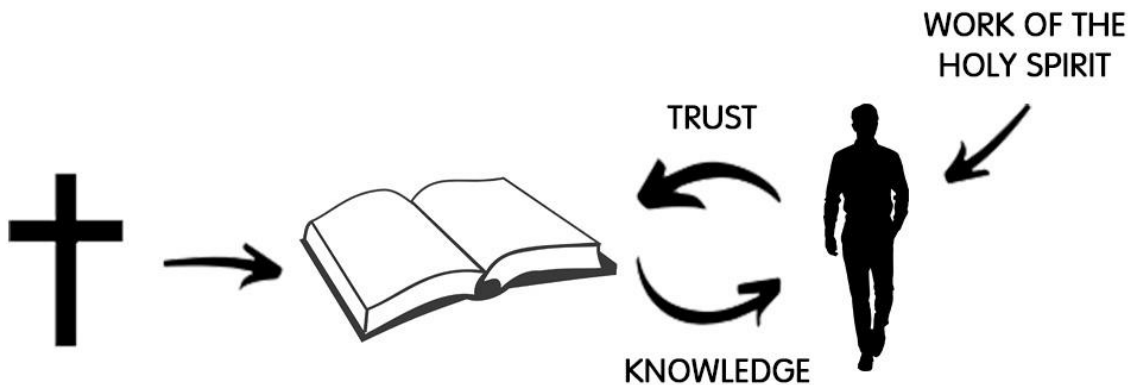
Trusting Christ as Savior

Trusting Christ as Lord

Trusting Christ as the only source of abundant life

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The transforming power of faith



DISCIPLESHIP

The operation of the Word of truth

The Word of truth reveals Christ to us.

The transforming effect of faith

Submission to the mind of Christ
Submission to the emotions of Christ
Submission to the desires of Christ
Submission to the will of Christ

Mt. 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

1 Jn 1:1-4 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Phil 2:3-5 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

Ro 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Cor 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Discipleship is the operation of faith, expressed in the continued knowledge of Christ and in practice trusting our thoughts, feelings, desires, will and actions to Him.

III. How do we make disciples?

Mt. 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

A. Helping a person come to faith in Jesus Christ

Eph 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Operation of the Word of Truth.

The Word reveals to us God, the holy Ruler of heaven and earth.
The Word reveals our sinfulness to us.
The Word reveals to us our guilt and its punishment.
The Word reveals to us the love of God expressed in the Son.
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The Word reveals to us justification by faith in Jesus Christ.

The saving response of faith

Trusting Christ

Trusting Christ as Savior

Trusting Christ as Lord

Trusting Christ as the only source of abundant life

We can bring people to saving faith in Jesus Christ only by bringing to them the Word of truth that speaks of Christ and the Gospel, and asking in prayer for the regenerating action of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

B. Helping a person live by faith in Jesus Christ

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Discipleship is expressed in helping others, knowing the Word of truth that speaks of Christ and His commands, practically living in obedience and becoming like Him.

Discipleship is expressed in helping others, knowing Christ and trusting Him in specific life situations.

Discipleship is the life of every Christian directed towards helping others come to faith in Jesus Christ and live by faith in Jesus Christ.

Eph 4:15-16 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Living a life of practical trust in Christ in real life situations is the best thing Christians can learn.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

Conclusions for Prayer

- Discipleship is the primary commandment of the risen Christ
- Being a disciple of Christ means knowing Christ by trusting Him and practically submitting one's thinking, feelings, desires, will and actions to Him.
- Discipleship means bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ and affirming and encouraging them to live a life of trust in Christ in practice.