

# The Bible's Requirements to be a "Believer"

- #1 – John 1:12** – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.
- #2 – John 3:16** – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
- #3 – John 3:36** – He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”
- #4 – John 6:47** – Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.
- #5 – Acts 16:30-31** – And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”
- #6 – Ephesians 2:8-9** – For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- #7 – 1 John 5:11-13** – And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

**Note: The only requirement to be saved is to believe / to have faith in Jesus.**

# The Bible's Requirements to be a "Disciple"

## Various scriptures all from Jesus' own words

**#1 – Luke 14:26** – “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, ... he cannot be My disciple.

To be a disciple requires hating our family by comparison to our love for the Lord.

**#2 – Luke 14:26** – “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate ... and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

To be a disciple requires hating my own life by comparison to the life the Lord has for me.

**#3 – Luke 14:27** – And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

To be a disciple requires dying to self everyday (also see Matt 16:24 & Luke 9:23).

**#4 – Luke 14:33** – So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

To be a disciple requires forsaking all that we have.

**#5 – John 8:31** – Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”

To be a disciple requires we abide in Jesus' word.

**#6 & #7 – John 15:7-8** – If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

To be a disciple requires abiding in Jesus & His word abiding in us.

# Believer vs a Disciple

Where are we on these spectrums?

	2 Main Camps			
Questions / Views	Believer (but not a disciple)			Believer & Disciple
	Carnal	Young in the Faith	Prideful or lazy	Spiritual
Spiritual age in the Lord?	New or old in the faith but fleshly minded	New to the faith but growing	Not new to the faith & have grown before	Older in the faith but can be somewhat new
Relationship with the Lord?	Not concerned about growth but should be	Can be growing If not, then carnal	Often have stagnated & think they "Know it all"	Alive & growing & remain humble & hungry
How to they see the gospel?	Not concerned about growth but should be	Can be growing If not, then carnal	Often not sharing it with people	Always growing & sharing
Knowledge in the Bible?	Not knowledgeable & can only take in milk	Can be growing but can only take in milk	Don't apply the meat they can take in	Mature & always growing & can take in more meat
Results	Missing out on so much of their call. So, their return is very low fold			Fulfilling their call to some degree and even get a return 30, 60 & 100 fold
Practical Maturity Spectrum	Immature ←————→ Mature			
Carnal vs. Spiritual Spectrum	Carnal ←————→ Spiritual			
Believer vs. Disciple Spectrum	Believer ←————→ Disciple			

# Key Steps to Grow into Greater Maturity

- #1 – Ask yourself how committed you are to grow in the Lord.**  
We need to bring a desire to grow and read and pray over Philippians 2:13.
- #2 – Submit to the Lord daily.**  
See Matthew 16:24 & Luke 9:23.
- #3 – Humbly ask the Holy Spirit to fill you daily.**  
See Ephesians 5:18.
- #4 – Continue to ask the Lord for wisdom and how to walk in the Spirit.**  
See Galatians 5:16-26.
- #5 – Be disciplined to spend more and more time with the Lord in prayer and in reading the Bible.**  
See Romans 8:5-6 & Matthew 6:9-13 & 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
- #6 – Never forget we are nothing and can do nothing apart from the Lord.**  
To be a disciple requires abiding in Jesus & His word abiding in us.