

WE VALUE DISCIPLESHIP

As Jesus instructed His Church to make disciples in all nations, we believe our primary focus is to do so through our Forerunner Discipleship School, through internships, bible studies, conferences, Sunday School classes, etc. as we prepare for the unique dynamics prior to Jesus' return (Mt. 5,6,7; Mt. 28:18-20).

VISION & MISSION:

'We are called to be a unique expression of church, centered around the presence of Jesus through night & day worship & prayer for the purpose of seeing families, neighborhoods, and nations transformed as we prepare for His return.'

CORE VALUES

Prayer & Worship

As a unique expression of church, our primary pursuit is to minister to God through personal intimacy w/ Jesus, extravagant devotional worship, corporate intercession, as well encouraging the Church in our city to pursue the same (Is. 56:7; Acts 15:16-17).

Discipleship

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Fasting

We believe that one of the most valuable gifts from God is the secret practice of fasting, combined with prayer. Jesus taught that His absence would create longing in the human heart. We encourage all followers of Jesus to participate in routine personal & corporate weekly fasts, Global Bridegroom Fasts, etc. (Mt. 9:15).

Family

We value and celebrate God's heart expressed most clearly as a Father to His family, both in heaven and on earth. We celebrate the church as God's family in community gatherings, small group gatherings, while also celebrating each individual who God has placed in our family community (Is. 56:7; Jn. 13:34-35; Jn. 17:21).

Justice

We believe that every prayer that God answers is an act of His justice over every circumstance that is outside of His sovereign will and plan. This includes evangelism, serving the poor, praying for the sick, fighting for the widow and the orphan, while working directly with justice ministries who labor in our city (Is. 58:6-8).

Spiritual Gifts

We desire to pursue and walk in all that God has made available to His church, including spiritual gifts. This is our desire, as Paul instructs us to do so. We believe that the New Testament model for followers of Jesus is to walk with Holy Spirit, talk with the Holy Spirit, and to love by the Holy Spirit as we pursue a spirit of unity (1 Cor. 12:1; 1 Cor. 14:1,5; Eph. 4:13-14).

Matthew 5,6,7 (:24-25) (Sermon on the Mount Instructions) *"...Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

Matthew 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father*

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

We believe that the time is short and the hour is late, yet the work is still before us. Jesus has instructed us as a community and as His Church to make disciples among all nations and people-groups. As Jesus gives us this command, we want to consider what that looks like in our world and in our lives.

- Jesus is repossessing His Church-His Bride.
- We must first become Disciples before we can make disciples.
- Just as Jesus reproduces who He is, so too we will reproduce who we are becoming.
- Discipleship was never meant to be transactional but transformational.
- Discipleship is simply following and obeying the voice and leadership of Jesus. This is ‘Spiritual Formation Through Transformation.’
- We are becoming what/who we are beholding.
- **Jesus Makes Disciples By:**
 - Jesus invites us into His presence. We seek to behold Christ in His glory, power, and beauty as New Covenant Priests. As we behold Him, we become like Him.
 - Without the Priesthood ministry there is no prophetic ministry. We become nothing more than a ‘non-prophet’ ministry of man/culture.
 - Recommending Samuel Whitefield’s: **Discipleship Begins with Beholding**
 - Discipleship is to be foundational in our families. As fathers and mothers and grandparents, we have the closest and most influential impacts on the young ones around us. As these young ones behold our lives, they will become like us. CAUTION! Follow Christ closely in holiness.
 - Discipleship is strengthened in the larger spiritual family as well. We strengthen the lifestyles of following Christ in our corporate gatherings, in worship/prayer environments, in smaller bible studies, home group gatherings, special events that we host around the presence and power of Jesus, in our Forerunner School discipleship and formation classes, etc.
- Discipleship is not so much a program or schedule as it is a lifestyle and a family practice.
- We should have such a confidence in the grace of God at work in our lives and in the lives of others that we can declare like Paul, “Follow me as I am following Christ.”
 - **1 Corinthians 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

“Discipleship is a building process—it is building people. Whenever you build something, you need to know what the end product looks like. For example, architects and engineers produce blueprints of the finished product so workers will know what they are making and how to make it. Without blueprints, you do not know what you are building.” (Samuel Whitefield)

- Discipleship starts with Jesus, the Great Disciple.
- Discipleship is about seeing and running to Jesus in love. Making disciples is about pointing others to Jesus and seeing them grow in love for Jesus.

- God's Word/Commandments and the life, ministry, and commands of Jesus are our blueprint.
- God invited Israel into Discipleship/Following Him/Spiritual Transformation.

"God wants to form people who become like Him, and God in the person of Jesus is the blueprint—the end product of discipleship." (Samuel Whitefield)

- **1 John 4:17** *Love has been perfected (matured/produced) among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*
- Discipleship is not a program or class, but a surrender to a King and Man who is leading us and showing us the way to live in light of perfected love. This will be our eternal relationship with Jesus.
- *"God does not want a people who follow His Son because they feel guilty and obligated. He is forming a people who love His Son more deeply and consider Him a greater treasure than any other treasure."* (S. Whitefield)
- Discipleship to Jesus is all because of love.
 - *"A groom longs for a bride who is captivated in love (and a bride longs for the same thing) with a genuine desire for him—for the man to whom she is committing her life. Jesus is no different."* (S. Whitefield)

This is Jesus' definition of Discipleship:

- **Matthew 16:24-28** *"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?—Is anything worth more than your soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds. ²⁸ And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his Kingdom."*
- *"He demanded first priority in every area. His requirements for discipleship were incredibly high, and He told people to carefully count the cost of following Him before they followed Him. ³² Jesus had much higher requirements for discipleship than many of us do. The plain truth is many of us find Jesus' requirements too demanding and constantly seek to lower them."* (S. Whitefield)
- Discipleship must begin with beholding the beauty of God in the person of Jesus. Otherwise, we will only follow rules and guidelines. Jesus wants us to follow Him. When we see Him, we will love Him. When we love, we will gladly and willingly follow Him because of love.
- When God invited a whole generation and people into Disciple and Spiritual Transformation in Israel, they mostly rejected the invitation. As a result, Moses went up onto the mountain to encounter God and return with the title "Friend of God" and walking with a bright glory of God on Him. The people of Israel asked to have the glory veiled to them in fear. In this process, the nation and families of Israel mostly started worshipping their own gods. We will seek beauty, glory, and objects to worship, one way or the other.
- **Exodus 20:18-20** *Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.*

- If we neglect to behold Christ, we too will be in danger of forming and worshipping our own man-made idols; little gods who fit in our own convenient boxes.
- Let us behold Christ and become more and more like Christ.

1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*