Discipleship: Gods Pathway to Restore His People

God's goal for you and me when we said "I will follow you" is to conform us to the image of His Son Christ.

- This is the road that God set us on when God said follow Me, you said I will and God filled us with His Spirit. In that moment He restored you and in that moment you and I should begin to look very different. In that decision God set each of us on a new path.
- You know what restoration looks like? It's a renewed heart and a renewed mind, its brokenness healed, it's a life marked by holiness, joy and a renewed purpose and mission each day. Its faithful obedience in everyday life, and when we stumble, we acknowledge that, change course, get up and get back on the path that God set us on.
- A true disciple is word-centered, gospel driven, community based and intentional.
- **Discipleship is the intentional pursuit of becoming conformed to the image of Christ!**
    1. The path that God set us on is accomplished in two ways. The first is corporate. That's what we are doing today. Read Hebrews 10:19-25.
    2. <u>We are called by the Word</u>: Romans 10:17 says "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."
    3. <u>We sing the Word</u>: Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."
    4. <u>We pray the Word</u>**:** 1 John 5:14 says "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." When we thank of the Lord's Prayer, we see that our model is to pray "His will be done." His will for us is found in His Word.
    5. <u>We preach the Word:</u> 1 Timothy 4:13 says, "Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading *of Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching."
    6. <u>We respond to the Word:</u> James 1:22 says "But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."
    7. <u>We are commissioned by the Word:</u> Jesus said this to all His disciples in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Corporate worship is where God addresses, convicts, comforts, restores and sends His people through His Word to GO!
- Go where? Go minister. This is the second way God conforms us to His image. This is what you do tomorrow.
    1. <u>We minister to one another</u>: Romans 15:14 says "And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another." Galatians 6:1-2 says "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens and thereby fulfill the law of Christ."
    2. <u>We minister at home</u>: Duet. 6:7 says of God's Word that "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."
    3. <u>We minister in small groups</u>: Acts 2:42; 46 says, "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their numbers day by day those who were being saved."
    4. <u>We hold each other accountable</u>: Hebrews 3:12-13 says, "Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
    5. <u>We grow in personal study</u>: 2 Timothy 2:15 says "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."
- In doing this the Word is applied personally and particularly to the sins, sufferings, fears, duties, relationships, and decisions of life throughout the week.
- Our desire should be to see restored people. We must begin.
- The **Word heard** should lead us to **give the Gospel** and set our hearts to **Obey the Word**, **be in community** and **go on Mission** in our area.