

## Sanctification V

### Follow Jesus?

**Hebrews 12:1-2 (NASB 2020)** *Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

#### I. What does it mean to Follow Jesus

**Hebrews 12:2 (AMP)** *Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Looking Only:** g0872. ἀφοράω aphoraō; from 575 and 3708; to consider attentively: — look; to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something (Jesus).

**Following something or someone has to do with what you are looking at!**

**\*\*Job 31:1 (NASB95)** *"I have made a covenant with my eyes..."*

**Matthew 5:29 (NASB95)** *"If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."*

**\*\*Proverbs 4:25-27 (NASB95)** *Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.*

#### II. The Author and Perfecter of the Faith

**Matthew 16:24 (NLT)** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me."*

**\*\*Philippians 2:5 (NKJV)** *Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*

**Set Your Mind:** g5426. φρονέω phroneō; from 5424; to exercise the mind, i.e. to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively, to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience):

**1 Corinthians 11:1 (AMP)** *PATTERN YOURSELVES after me [follow my example], as I imitate and follow Christ (the Messiah).*

**Follow:** g3402. μιμητής mimētēs; from 3401; an imitator: — follower. AV (7) - follower 7; an imitator

**Stay in the Word!**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NASB 2020)** *But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (AMP)** *And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.*

**He is the perfecter of our Faith! "from one degree of glory to another." He is not asking us to be perfect, just to follow Him and keep our eyes on Him!**

**Psalms 119:105 (NLT)** *Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*

**John 10:27-28 (NASB 2020)** *My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.*

#### III. The Joy of Following Christ, receiving the reward for following!

**Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)** *Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

**1 John 3:19-22 (NASB 2020)** *We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will set our heart at ease before Him, that if our heart condemns us, that God is greater than our heart, and He knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask, we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*

### The picture of Following Christ...Staying in His Shadow

**\*\*\*Psalms 91:1-2 (NASB 2020)** *One who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will lodge in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"*

**Mark 10:28-30 (NASB 2020)** *Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and have followed You." Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life*

**John 12:26 (NASB 2020)** *If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

**Honor:** g5091. τιμάω timāō; from 5093; to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere: — honor, value.

**Hebrews 11:6 (NASB 2020)** *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for the one who comes to God must believe that He exists, and that He proves to be One who rewards those who seek Him.*