



REV. DR. DREW E. MARSHALL

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *week*

OCT  
4<sup>TH</sup> *thru*  
7<sup>TH</sup>

DR. JOHN TOLBERT ~ Senior Pastor

*Virtual  
Workshop*

## Be the Church

# Don't Be a "Wanna Be"

## Disciple

John 8:31-32



1921 YEARS 2021  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church



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The Church of the Living God has entered one of its most challenging, but potentially fruitful times. The events of the last 18 months has moved the church out of Her comfort zone and altered what we previously knew as normal. Usually, when catastrophic times occur, it causes people to flood to the church building. However, COVID-19 caused the church building to be closed and individuals who would normally come to the church building could not, but are still looking for hope, comfort, and assurance.



Since the church's mission did not change, the church was forced to do what She was created to do—"GO"—[Matthew 28:19-20](#). Believers were given the opportunity and the platform to reach and gather the harvest for Christ—[Matthew 9:37-38](#). But, to recognize and reach the harvest and take advantage of the open door God gave the church ([2](#)



[Corinthians 2:12](#)), it takes authentic disciples. An open door is a great evangelistic opportunity that did not exist before that God, through His

sovereignty, has provided. This usually occurs in turbulent times. But if you are only a Wanna-Be Disciple, you will miss, misinterpret, or ignore that open door. Multitudes of people are looking for answers that only the church can provide—[John 14:6](#). We see on a daily basis the conditions that Jesus came to this world for and have now given that

responsibility to His church—[Luke 4:18](#) (the poor, the captive, the blind, and the oppressed); [Isaiah 53:3-5](#) (sorrow, grief, iniquities, sickness, and disease). Wanna-Be Disciples are unaware that we were sent with the Good News to address these conditions.

I. What is a Wanna-Be Disciple?

A wanna be is a person who wants or desires to be someone or something else or tries to look or act like someone else

without putting forth the efforts. A  
wanna be is one who imitates the

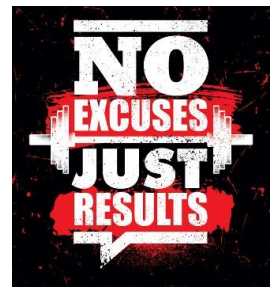


Imitator

behavior of a believer without actually believing, without getting results—[Matthew 17:14-21](#). They use the name of Jesus without the relationship and power of Jesus.

A Wanna-Be Disciple is one who has united with the church and claims to be a follower of Christ, but always has reasons or excuses why they cannot successfully obey Christ. Some wanna-be phrases are:

- I wanna do right, but you don't understand.
- I wanna be more faithful, but my schedule is so heavy.
- I wanna forgive, but you don't know what they did to me.
- I wanna study more, but I can't find the time.
- I wanna tithe, but I have too many bills.



The production of the church is severely hampered by Wanna-Be Disciples. Wanna-Be Disciples have a personal agenda they believe is greater than the agenda of Christ. They are only committed to Christ in Word, but not in deed. They, through their actions, don't really believe God enough to trust Him with their lives and circumstances.

Dangers of Being a Wanna-Be Disciple—[Luke 14:15-23](#)

- A. They Make Jesus Angry—[Luke 14:21-22](#)
- B. Their Action Causes Jesus to Dismiss Them—  
[Luke 14:22-24](#)
- C. The Enemy Takes Advantage of Them—[Acts 19:11-16](#)
- D. Their Circumstances Overwhelm Them—[Luke 6:49](#)



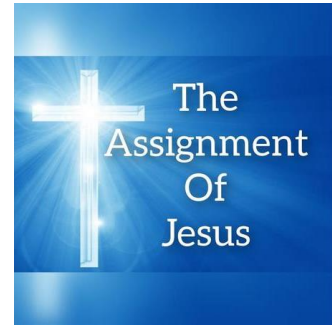
II. Taking Advantage of God's Open Door—[2 Corinthians 2:12](#)

God's Word does not change because of human challenges and complications. But, rather gives instructions as to how to navigate those challenges and produce to an even greater degree—[Exodus 1:12](#). God has never or will ever allow times or conditions to become too difficult for believers to obey Him and produce—[1](#)



[Corinthians 10:13](#). The Pandemic of COVID-19, when viewed through the eyes of the Scripture, provided more opportunities than obstacles. But to

see those opportunities and seize them, one must be focused on accomplishing the assignment Jesus gave the church. Jesus' assignment to the church is a mandate and is not optional. [Acts 1:8](#) and [Matthew 28:19-20](#) are still the requirements in a socially-distant world. Distance has never been a problem for God. In [Matthew 28:19-20](#), Jesus promises His presence



as we make disciples, and in [Acts 1:8](#), He promises His power. When we focus only on our challenges or complications, we ignore Jesus' presence and His power and therefore become defeated by our circumstances. He never told us to make disciples on our own—[John 15:5](#), [Philippians 2:13](#). Therefore, to make disciples, we must be locked into our purpose and know that it is not optional nor are there any excuses for not making disciples—[Matthew 9:38](#). God's purpose for the church has not changed but requires authentic disciples.

**Obvious Ignored**—God has given the church everything needed to complete the assignment to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it is largely ignored by Wanna-Be Disciples—[2 Peter 1:3-4](#). Have you noticed that when it comes to our



agenda, we find reasons to do, but when it comes to the agenda of Christ, we find reasons not to do? Many times we ignore what is in our hands when it comes to our

assignment for Christ. We have gotten to the point that we can't exist without it, yet

we seldom use it for Christ. Therefore, all we need to do is look in our hands. When Moses thought that he was powerless in the assignment God gave him, God asked Moses, "What's in your hands?"—**Exodus 4:2**. Then, God showed Moses all the possibilities and miracles that could be done with what was in his hands. Then, He tells Moses in **Verse 4:17** to take the staff and do what He assigned.

Discipleship has to do with reaching people, connecting with them according



to common interest and convincing them to join with you. We do this on a daily basis through social media to accomplish the purpose for our jobs and ourselves. Online

shopping and online stores are recording record profits in this socially-distant world. We aid them in their success because we use the tool that is in our hands.







**Question to consider**—How can you use your cell phone and/or social media to connect people to Christ?



I believe that God is asking the church the same question that He asked Moses, "What is that in your hand?" The answer is cell phones, ipads, and social media platforms. If we say that we cannot make disciples because of social distancing, we have ignored the obvious. God has provided the tool for us to not only reach Jerusalem but also the uttermost parts of the world—[Acts 1:8](#). We have the means in our hands. All we have to do is now use what is in our hands to complete our assignments. When we are focused on our assignment for Christ, this becomes very exciting and rewarding.



**Question to consider**— Of the top seven social media platforms, which are you most familiar and utilize the most? \_\_\_\_\_

- You Tube 
- Facebook 
- Instagram 
- Twitter 
- Tiktok 
- Pinterest 
- Snapchat 



- All of these platforms are designed with connecting people in mind. Note the number of connections that are currently happening and continue to grow with no end in sight.
- Instagram has topped over 1 billion monthly users, Facebook—2.23 billion, You Tube— 1.9 billion, What’s App—1.5 billion, and Messenger—1.3 billion (all of this is obvious).
- Facebook—people use to build community and bring the world closer. People use it to stay connected with friends and family and to discover what’s going on in the world.
- You Tube—it is used to share videos, share, like, comment, and upload videos.
- Instagram—it is entirely visual. It is used to share images or videos with their audience.

**Question to consider**—What are some other social media platforms not named?

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***Power of God in Making Disciples***—All of these platforms and others have connected people and met needs more than ever before, even in a socially-distant world. Note [Romans 10:8](#) and [Deuteronomy 30:11-15](#). The Word of God is the most important thing. We have learned how to reach the world and anyone we desire to reach through social media. But Wanna-Be Disciples do it for selfish reasons and have ignored the obvious when it comes to making disciples for Christ.

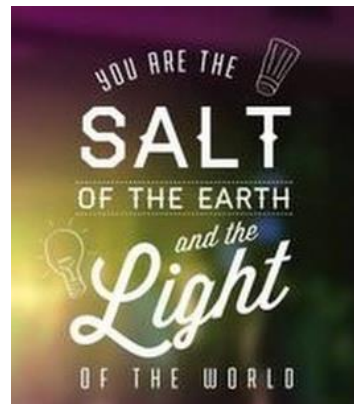


Suppose, just suppose, that we, as believers, began to reach those we reach for selfish reasons begin to reach them now for the Kingdom. Imagine the

impact. It is entirely possible for us to use the obvious tools in our hands to make disciples. The world is at our fingertips, yet we are looking for ways to make disciples and ignoring what is in our hands.

Remember that we are only the vessel that God chooses to use to make disciples—

[John 6:44](#). As we obey God, the power of God is at work—[John 12:32](#). Therefore, the believer must decide to obey and then God does the rest—[Philippians 2:13-14](#) AMP-C. As we obey God, He is working and using the church as His Light and His Salt.



**Reality in a Socially-Distant World**—Note what happened in a socially-distant time in [Acts 10](#) because Peter made the decision to obey God:

1. God works without man being present—[Acts 10:1-7](#)
2. God works on His messenger—[Acts 10:9-16](#)
3. God makes the connection—[Acts 10:17-23](#)



Jesus' mission statement is still real—[Luke 4:18-19](#). In a socially-distant world, there are still human problems and human needs. As a matter of fact, many of those problems and needs were magnified. When problems and needs are magnified, it is easier for the church to witness.

**Adaptation and Change**—To effectively accomplish our God assignment requires constant adaptation and change. Quickly adapt to a new reality and then change. Change is automatic when we are serious about reaching people for Christ. Change is not difficult when you are locked into your purpose.

God has given the church an opportunity to shed some things that were not working and embrace different things that will get greater results. He did this in a socially-distant world. Remember to go with God, we must change—[Isaiah 43:18-19](#).

