



# A DISCIPLE'S JOURNEY

WE EXIST TO MAKE DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

## **Step 10**

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# **Continue to Grow**

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**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

As we reach session ten of The Disciple's Journey, it's easy to think that the end is in sight. One more video, just a few more pages, and I have completed the journey. As you have been walking through this journey, I am sure that you realize that is not the case. Though the book and videos may end, the journey of discipleship is not over. Like we mentioned right out of the gates, following Jesus is a lifelong journey and discipleship is an ongoing process. The Disciple's Journey is not a sprint; it is a marathon full of twists and turns and ups and downs.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. – 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

We must be cautious not to become stagnant and assume that we have arrived. We will never arrive until the day Jesus returns or until we meet Him at the end of our earthly lives. A disciple who is not growing is a disciple who is not being obedient to the call of their King and one who is missing out on what God has in store for their relationship with Him and others. The steps that we have taken so far on this journey are good ones, but they aren't "one and done's"; they are rhythms and spiritual disciplines that we want to continue to cultivate across a lifetime. As author Donald

Whitney writes, these are “means, not ends.” The call to following Jesus is a call to continually grow more in holiness, in the image and likeness of Jesus. A disciple continues to grow; to look more and more like Jesus in the way that we talk, play, work, act, and live. There are three areas of growth that we continue to grow in: Theology (understanding God), Character (becoming more like Jesus), and Ministry (serving others).

### **Grow in Theology – understanding who God is and what He has done**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. – Hebrews 5:12-14*

### **Grow in Character – becoming more like Jesus**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry. – Colossians 3:1-5*

**Grow in Ministry – serving others with the gifts God has given you**  
*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love. – Galatians 5:13*

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. – Ephesians 6:7-8*

As we near the end of this study, it is good to be reminded of two quotes from our earlier sessions. These quotes remind us about the true nature of discipleship, that ultimately it is about the Lord Jesus Christ, and that we will always continue to grow.

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“A disciple is a person-in-process who is eager to learn and apply the truths that Jesus Christ teaches him, which will result in ever-deepening commitments to a Christ-like lifestyle.” – Chris Adsit

Continue on this journey of faith, press on in The Disciple’s Journey. The eternal prize we pursue is well worth it.

