

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 1 – The Process of Change

Lesson 1- The Purpose of Discipleship

NKJV – Isaiah 28:9&10

⁹“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those *just* weaned from milk? Those *just* drawn from the breasts? ¹⁰For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.”

Discipleship is a process, not a one-time download, but step-by-step, building revelation in me and upon me.

NKJV – Matthew 28:19-20

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.

God has called us into the world to make disciples, not just converts. This process of making disciples is through teaching.

Definition of a disciple:

*A disciple is one who sits on the edge of his seat,
intensely listens to every word that is being taught,
and then immediately gets up and goes
and puts into practice what he just learned.
**A disciple is actively and aggressively involved in the process.
He does not just hear the Word;
he is a doer of the Word.***

True discipleship comes to bring about a change in me.

NKJV – Romans 8:29

²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

We are being changed and transformed into Christ’s likeness.

What is the purpose and process of Discipleship?

If the purpose of discipleship is to bring about the **change** of becoming more like Christ, then the process of discipleship is **confrontation**.

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True discipleship requires confrontation, which has to come by the Word of God and is not always comfortable.

What does change require?

Change is not comfortable, because **change requires displacement.**

When we are being changed into His image, the things in us now have to be **displaced**, uprooted, moved out of priority or completely removed.

*Comfort is the curse of a compromised Gospel
because true change only comes by confrontation.*

God is going to expose things by the Spirit of Revelation and by the anointing of His power.

AMP – Hebrews 4:12&13

¹²For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart. ¹³There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

When was the last time you were so pierced through the heart by the Word of God that you lay bare?

Charles Finney had such a distinctive difference over other ministers in his day because of what he taught and preached. He said this (paraphrasing), “If you're not going through seasons of brokenness and heavy conviction of God every five to six weeks, you are probably backsliding.”

The Bible says that we are to be constantly changing into Christ likeness. If we are a true disciple, then we are being changed. Old things are **progressively** passing away. All things are **progressively** becoming new.

NKJV – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

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Define Deception and describe how we can know when we are deceived?

Deception means that we simply believe something that is not in line with the Word of God. If we are not acting like Jesus...if we are not lined up with Him perfectly, then there is an area of deception in our life.

Am I walking, manifesting and looking like Jesus?

NKJV – Proverbs 21:2

²Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.

Everyone seems to think they are right: **In any area of our life that is not exactly lined up with Jesus...when we're not exactly like Jesus...it is an area where there is a dimension of deception still at work.** Deception means that we simply believe something that is not true. Our actions are based on what we believe. **If we are not acting like Jesus...if we are not lined up with Him perfectly, then there is an area of deception in our life.**

The purpose of true discipleship is to pierce us to the very heart, to the very core of our being. It is to penetrate us, expose us and lay us bare. This takes place so that those things in us, which are not of God, may come to the surface, and through repentance and the washing of the water of the Word and the Blood of Jesus, we may be cleansed of them.

This process allows us to grow from a degree of His image to a greater degree of His image, so that we may become like Christ.

Moving on questions:

- Are you ready to face the challenge?
- Are you ready to face the challenge of the Word coming and judging?
- Are you ready for the Word to come and judge the thoughts, the intents, and the attitudes of your heart?
- Are you hungry for His Word?

Our prayer should be:

*“God, pierce me with your sword,
pierce me with your Word that I might die to who I am,
that Christ might live inside of me.”*

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For further study:

Key Topic: Christ Likeness

Question: What is the purpose and process of discipleship?

NKJV – 2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Key Topic: Change

Question: What does change require?

NKJV – Psalm 139:23&24 – Key Topic: Confrontation

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.