



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

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Monthly Newsletter

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Matthew 28:19-20

states, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

This last recorded command of our Lord is still ringing in our ears from across the centuries. Christians have responded with a variety of interpretations. In our generation, discipleship is getting a fresh look and is becoming more defined. My own definition of “discipleship” has been constantly refined and will no doubt continue to be. So, this series of articles is by no means an attempt to cover the subject, but to explore it. Neither are they an attempt to promote one man’s view of “discipleship.” Because the commitment involved is total, deception or synthetic approaches can be disastrous. Any application of the following principles should be done only after serious prayer. Christian discipleship can only function under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and by the Holy Spirit. All disciples belong to the Lord, but stewards of His ministry shape them.

Proverbs 29:19 states out of the

DISCIPLE

BE ONE. MAKE ONE.

Part One

NLT, *“For a servant, mere words are not enough--discipline (discipleship) is needed. For the words may be understood, but they are not heeded.”* Discipline is defined this way, “to instruct, to cultivate and to train.” From the beginning of time, God has sought a relationship with us. He longs to know us and be known by us. The story of the Bible is that of God taking the initiative, of Him seeking us out. Not only does God long to know us, He has also created within us the desire to know Him in return. There is something deep inside of us that hungers for the eternal. It is an indefinable impulse, a driving thirst, a gnawing emptiness that longs to be filled. We may seek to fill it with busy-ness, with accomplishment, with pleasure or with people, but none of those suffice. We not only want to know God, we want to be like the God we come to know.

All of us have known Christians whose lives were full of promise. They seemed to have it all: talent, looks, intelligence, personality, and opportunity. But for one reason or another they weren’t

able to put it all together. Why not? Many times it simply boils down to this, these Christians lacked discipline. I want to equip all of you, who desire to succeed as a Christian, to develop the potential that God has instilled in you, so that you can succeed as a Christian.

But how? How can you turn your want into can or your desire into ability? What is the process that the Lord uses? 1 Timothy 4:7 holds the key, it states, *“train yourself to be godly (NIV)”* Out of the (KJV) it says, *“exercise yourself unto Godliness.”* The Living Bible puts it this way, *“Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.”* And the “Message” says, *“exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please!”*

The Greek word that is translated either to “discipline,

(continued on page 2)

exercise, or train" is the word "gumnazo." It's the word that we get our English word "gymnasium" from, which means to exercise vigorously.

My premise for the next several months will be that God wants to put us into a Gym to train us to be Godly. **Discipleship is that Gym.** When we become a believer we make Jesus our Savior; when we become a disciple we make Jesus our Lord. Lordship isn't a title Jesus wants to be called, but a position He wants to hold in our life, that is demonstrated by obedience to what He says. As Savior, Jesus gets us into heaven, but as Lord He gets heaven into us. The church in America has mainly produced believers and not disciples. We've had good teaching but very little training. Training is discipleship. It is where people are trained to walk in what they know. Teaching imparts the desire to do right. Training or discipleship imparts the ability to do right. Discipleship is where a believer joins him or herself to a mature and established Christian for the purpose of instruction, cultivation, and training, in order to produce maturity and effectiveness in their lives.

Philippians 2:12-13 states, *"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in My presence, but now much more in My absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who*

works in you to will and to do of His good purpose." The two phrases I want to call your attention to are the words "work out" and "work in." The Lord has worked in you both the will (**desire**) and the do (**potential**) in order that you might become and do all that He wants you to. Desire is given; potential has to be developed. You have been given the desire and the potential to live victoriously and effectively for Christ. But are you willing to go through the process of developing your potential into the ability to carry out your desire. That process is called "**Discipleship.**" The problem is never with your potential, Jesus took care of that, He worked it in. The problem is always with your desire. It's not that you can't, it's that you won't.

God worked it in, but you have to work it out. There are two Greek words for "**righteousness**" in the New Testament. The first is "*diakaiosune,*" which means "*imputed or imparted righteousness,*" or another way of saying it is "*worked in righteousness.*" Doctrinally this is called "Justification." On the basis of faith, God takes Christ's righteousness and imputes it to us, or works it in us. Impute means "*to reckon to one what does not belong to him.*" An example of this word is found in **2 Corinthians 5:21** which states, "*He made Him who knew no sin {to be} sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness*

(diakaiosune) of God in Him." (NAS)

The second is "*dikaionoma,*" which means "*outworked righteousness or righteousness in action.*" As we mature in Christ, God requires that the "*worked in righteousness - diakaiosune*" be translated into "*outworked righteousness - dikaionoma.*" Doctrinally this is called "Sanctification." An example of this word is found in **Romans 8:4** which states, "*that the righteousness (dikaionoma) of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*" (KJV)

God, by the Holy Spirit, wants to put you in a discipleship relationship, that is designed to work out that which has already been worked in by your faith in what Christ did for you on the cross. Through that faith you are already righteous (**diakaiosune**) positionally, but through your obedience to the Spirit, you can be righteous (**dikaionoma**) experientially. Simply stated the discipleship relationship that God wants to put you into will cause you to become outwardly what you already are inwardly.

It will take work and it will take effort. The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary. You need to work out the love that God has worked in; the courage, the boldness, the effectiveness, the joy, the sensitivity, the patience, etc. It's going to be

hard, frustrating and even painful at times. What will keep you working at it, is that you know it's in there. That it is in you to be more loving, to be more sensitive, to be more patient, you just have to work it out. God has worked it in and now, by His grace, you are going to work it out through discipleship.

The biggest struggle to discipleship is not in wanting to be discipled, but staying in discipleship once you get there. In the natural, health spas make a killing off people's inability to see something through once the initial novelty wears off, and the going starts getting tough. All they have to do is continue selling yearly memberships without fear of over selling, because the average person only sticks it out 3 months. But it's not until after the third month that a person really start making progress. It's not until you want to quit, then you start seeing the results that caused you to start. Too many people have quit being a disciple, because somewhere in the process it became difficult and uncomfortable. Here are some sayings that should inspire us when this happens. No pain, no gain. Troubles weren't sent to batter us, but to better us. Trying times are times for trying. If you don't scale the mountain, you can't see the view. The door to the room of success swings on the hinges of opposition. God never makes us conscience of our weakness except to give us His strength. The more difficult the obstacle, the stronger one becomes after hurdling it.

A person becomes a disciple when they make Jesus the Lord of their life. Read, Acts 2:36 and Romans 14:9-10. Here is the real question: **IS JESUS THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE?** Luke 6:46 states, *"And why do you call Me, Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* If Jesus is the Lord of your life, than He wants to rule over and discipline every area of your life. Our life consists of many areas and it is our responsibility to bring these areas through discipleship under His rule and discipline.

Let me end up this article by saying this, in order to disciple others, you must first become a disciple and then seek to disciple others. In John 14:6 Jesus says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."* Jesus came and revealed the true way of life. For us to obey this command, we must first be discipled in His ways and then seek to disciple others in His ways. Discipleship is a matter of one, who is living in the way of the Lord, showing someone else how to live in the way of the Lord.

Next month, I will share my own journey on how I was first discipled, and then began disciplining others.

Jim Newsom

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Notes From The Newsom's From Diane's Desk



Jim's Itinerary For June - 2022

As the summer heats up, we are trying to stay cool, as our air conditioner still has not been fixed. It has been over 6 months that we have been dealing with our home warranty company on getting our HVAC system running. They have actually replaced the outside heat pump unit twice with new ones, but the two different contractors who installed them actually destroyed them. So now we are waiting for a third contractor to come out and install a third brand new unit. Please pray with us that the new contractor will know what they are doing and we will finally have a working system.

Over the next two months, Jessica has signed Ronan up to attend eight different weeklong daytime summer camps. He will be doing a lot of science camps, an ice skating camp, and two acting camps. It will keep him really busy, and hopefully get him ready to start kindergarten in the fall. The down side to all these adventures for him is that I will miss taking care of him every day. But I guess this will also get me ready for him attending full days of kindergarten in the fall. The upside for me is that I will be able to get caught up on deep cleaning the house, and hopefully get in a little bit of golfing with Jim. I'm also hoping to start writing my second children's book.

Jessica and I had planned on flying out to visit Jason in Seattle this month, but we have had to postpone our trip as Jason is too swamped at work right now. He had several coworkers quit recently, and the university hasn't hired any replacements yet. So Jason has had to pick up their workload, which means he has been working extra hard as they won't allow him to work extra hours to get it all done. Needless to say, he is super stressed out, and Jessica and I don't want to add to that by throwing a visit from us on top of everything else. Hopefully the university will get some new employees, and things will settle down soon.

June 3-5 - Somerset, PA

Somerset Correctional Institution
Pastor Phil Maust - (662)323-4555

June 5-7 - Pittsburgh, PA

Urban Press
John Stanko - (412)818-8055

June 8-10 - Geneva, IL

Personal Ministry
Matt Bosman - (708)277-5370

June 10-12 - Bettendorf, IA

River Of Life Church
Pastor Jim Tully - (563)528-5617

June 28-29 -13 - Nashville, TN

River Bend Maximum Security
Charlie Bretz - (615)554-9085

If you would like to schedule Jim to come speak at a school, prison, or church in your area, please call or e-mail Jim at the above number or address.