

Unrecognizable Session 5 – The Making of Disciples

I. Introduction Review

A. **1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)** – *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*

B. Recent Weeks

1. Understanding the Distinct Life
2. Living the Distinct Life
3. Discipleship – The Key to Makeover
4. The Discipleship Makeover Process

John 15:3-8 (KJV) – ³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples*

- **Two Keys for Fruit Bearing**

1. **Abide in Christ**
2. **Abide in the Word**
3. **Jesus reveals the process of discipleship – to ABIDE**
 1. To abide
 2. To abide in Him
 3. To abide in the Word

II. The Making of Disciples

A. Abide definition

1. **Abide Def** – to remain, to sojourn – not to depart , kept continually – to continue in, to dwell, tarry
2. **The original GR word was primarily translated as ABIDE or CONTINUE.**
3. Abide carries two significant meanings for us as disciples
 1. To ABIDE – Stay put and refused to be moved
 - a. Stay put in Jesus – Stay with Jesus
 - b. Stay with the Word – biblical doctrine
 2. Continue in –

I’m not only grounded and settled in Christ and His teachings but I am CONTINUING to give myself to his instruction for SPIRITUAL GROWTH/MATURITY.
 3. Both of these definitions should be put to work in the life of EVERY BELIEVER/Disciple
 4. Both are NECESSARY ingredients for discipleship = MAKOVER/TRANSFORMATION.

B. Various scriptures using the word ABIDE/CONTINUE

1. **John 8:31-32 (KJV)** – *³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye **continue in my word**, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
2. **1 John 2:14 (KJV)** – *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God **abideth in you**, and ye have overcome the wicked one*
3. **1 John 2:28 (NIV)** – *And now, dear children, **continue in him**, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming* KJV – ABIDE

4. **2 John 1:9 (NIV)** – *Anyone who runs ahead and does not **continue in the teaching of Christ** does not have God; **whoever continues in the teaching** has both the Father and the Son*
5. **3 John 1:3 (NIV)** – *It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it.*
6. **2 Timothy 3:14 (NIV)** – *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it*
7. **Colossians 1:23 (NIV)** – *if you **continue** in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*
8. **Acts 2:41-42 (KJV)** – ⁴¹*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they **continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
9. **We have the witness of Jesus, John, Luke and Peter declaring the need to ABIDE/CONTINUE**
 - i. The true mark of discipleship is – to continue in the Word of God
 - ii. Transformation continues to take place within/without as we CHOOSE to CONINTUE/ ABIDE
 - iii. **The Choice**
ABIDING AND CONTINUING ARE ACTION TERMS THAT REQUIRE OUR COOPERATION

WE MAY CHOOSE TO ABIDE/CONTINUE OR NOT!

To choose to ABIDE/CONTINUE – is a choice to move forward in discipleship = TRANSFORMATION

To choose to REMAIN as we are is a choice to regress and fall short of everything God has planned for your life.

C. How do you abide/continue?

1. Church – The #1 Place of Discipleship

- i. **Acts 2:41-42 (KJV)** – ⁴¹*Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²**And they continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
- ii. The early church chose to CONTINUE/ABIDE
Notes:
Stedfastly = not sporadically, – day by day, hour by hour = priority
- iii. The #1 area that they chose to continue in was the apostles' doctrine.
- iv. To hear the apostle's doctrine, they had to go to the place where the apostles were.
- v. **Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)** – ¹¹*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*

Notes:

God gives ministers something for the sheep

God equips and builds up the body through ministers

EQUIP = perfecting KJV = completely furnishing

EXAMPLE = empty house – no furnishings

When you do not show up to hear HIS ministers, you do not receive what God gave for you.

- vi. Other SUPPLEMENTAL means of receiving/continuing in the Word are good but do not replace personal attendance.
- vii. **Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)** – *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Notes:

These was the same group of believers who were continuing steadfastly in Acts 2 - Only a few years later, they are developing the habit of not showing up for corporate church worship. After a few years – their church habits had changed Church habit examples

- viii. Church attendance puts value on the Word of God
- ix. **John 8:30-32 (KJV)** – ³⁰*As he spake these words, many believed on him. ³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*

Note:

The emphasis of Jesus was never on making converts but rather on making disciples

It isn't the WORD that makes you free

It is KNOWING the word that makes you free

The WORD you know produces FREEDOM in your life

Every new WORD you know – produces a greater level of freedom in your life.

Whenever I show up for church – it is a new opportunity for freedom – greater freedom

With every opportunity to HEAR the word – there is a new opportunity for greater makeover in my life.

Choose to be a disciple – to continue to abide