

# Embracing The Process of Discipleship



**2 Timothy 1:1-14, 2:1-2**

- Paul understood both what Timothy needed the most and what he must be committed to do. Notice the powerful words of Paul to his son in the gospel Timothy. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)
- “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (vs. 1)  
Where do our unlimited strength comes from?
- It comes from one source – God Almighty. (Psalm 28:7-8, 46:1, Philippians 4:13, 2 Corinthians 4:7, Isaiah 40:28-31, Ephesians 6:10)

1. God’s strength is all sufficient and all powerful.

2. God’s strength is all sufficient and all powerful.

- Paul reminds Timothy to never put his faith and trust in his strength or abilities, but in God alone.
- Paul charges Timothy to be strong in the “grace” that is in Christ Jesus. (vs. 1)
- Grace means the undeserved or unmerited favor.
- Grace is the empowering presence of God, enabling me to be what He has created me to be, and to do what He has created me to do.

1. Jesus Christ has supplied every one of His disciple with the strength and grace needed to fulfill the will of God. (Ephesians 1:3)

2. The disciple of Jesus Christ must look to Jesus Christ as their only source of “strength and grace” and not themselves or other people.

- (vs. 2) “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

○ A disciple of Jesus Christ will do (3) Three things: (vs. 2)

1. The disciple of Jesus Christ will preach and teach the truth of God’s Word.

2. The disciple of Jesus Christ will commit the truth of God’s Word to faithful (reliable, loyal, dependable) men and women.

3. The disciple of Jesus Christ will transfer God’s truth to others, who also can teach others.

- Being a Christian alone doesn’t make you a disciple of Jesus Christ.

- Unless a believer matures spiritually, he/she will never embrace being a disciple of Jesus Christ.
  - Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ can and will make a difference both now and in the future. (Acts 4:13, 17:1-6)
- The Prayer of Jesus for His present and future Disciples. (John 17)
    1. Jesus prayed for all of His disciples. (John 17)
      - Glorify Your Son through them. (John 17:1)
      - Unite them. (John 17:11, 20-23)
      - Fill them with My joy. (John 17:13)
      - Protect them from the evil one. (John 17:15)
      - Sanctify them by the truth of Your Word. (John 17:17)
      - Send them out into the world as You have sent Me. (John 17:18)
    2. Jesus Christ knew everything about His disciples.
      - He knew their strengths, weaknesses and problems. (Luke 22:31-32)
      - He knew they would be hated, persecuted, thrown into prison, be beaten, and some would be put to death by the religious leaders, and the mob they controlled. (Matthew 10:1-28)
      - He knew they needed to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to effective disciples (Acts 1:8).
  - Take a moment to ponder these questions?
    - What are you doing to develop into Christ's disciple?
    - What can you do to help disciple someone else?
    - If not you, then Who?
    - If not here, then Where?
    - If no now, then When?
- Purpose: To ensure that every member is equipped and ready to assist us in making disciples of Jesus Christ.
  - Goal: To grow in our understanding of discipleship as we prepare our hearts for the harvest that God is sending.

- **Spiritual Principles: Authority, Obedience, Stewardship, Agreement, Grace, Faith**

#### **A. Embrace the Process of Discipleship.**

##### **1. What does the word Discipleship mean?**

- **The definition of Discipleship: “The developmental process of the local church that progressively brings Christians from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity, so that they are then able to reproduce the process with someone else.” (Dr. Tony Evans)**
  - **The word “discipleship” means student, learner, or a follower.**
  - **Discipleship is a process that moves us toward spiritual maturity.**
- 1) A Christian disciple is to become full-grown, well developed disciple of Jesus Christ.**
  - 2) A Christian disciple is a person who believes in Jesus Christ and one who follows His example, His teaching and shares His gospel message with others.**
  - 3) A Christian disciple is a person who makes disciples for Jesus Christ.**
  - 4) A Christian disciple means that we become like Jesus Christ. (John 15:14-20)**
  - 5) A Christian disciple is a part of something much greater than himself. We are a part of a much greater kingdom than this world – that is the Kingdom of God.**
  - 6) A Christian disciple should never view their life from an earthly perspective instead of God’s heavenly perspective.**

#### **B. What is the reason for becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ?**

- 1. Not so we can walk around bragging about how religious we are and how many scriptures we can quote.**
  - **Not so we can become a good church worker (usher, greeter, choir singer, choir musician, etc.)**
  - **Not so we can become a millionaire (prosperity gospel).**
  - **Not so we can just go to heaven.**
- 2. Become a true disciple and share Christ Kingdom message (the gospel, good news of Jesus Christ with others).**

- To assist in the discipleship process by teaching others within the local church. (Matthew 28:19-20)
  - To assist in the responsibility of discipleship by helping to take care of those within the local church.
3. The truth of the matter is, being a Christian alone does not make you a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Without a true relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ will become non-meaningful, non-impactful, and non-thoughtful. It will become an afterthought.
  - Without being connected to a local church, becoming a disciple of Jesus will become non-existent.

C. Why the Process of Discipleship matters? (1 Corinthians 2:14-15, 3:1-3)

1. Discipleship is a lifelong process. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-14)
- It's a process of continual growth and development which leads to spiritual maturity. It is not a process that can be gained overnight.
  - It's a process of continual learning, loving and following Jesus and His teaching in order to become more like Him both in our attitude and actions.
  - It's a process that requires true commitment and dedication to Jesus Christ.
  - It's a process that teaches us who Christ is and who we are in Christ.
  - It's a process that requires a relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God and the local church.
  - Apostle Paul is writing to the church of Thessalonica, which was under intense persecution. The religious leaders were intentional about destroying Paul and the church.
- How did Apostle Paul respond to such accusations levied against him? (1 Thessalonians 2:1-14)
1. By strengthening and building up the lives of true believers.
  2. By making sure that no matter what false charges were levied against him, there would be no question about his love, hope, and faith in Jesus Christ.

3. By making sure that the church of Thessalonica remained healthy and strong. The task would be impossible if those believers' lives were spiritually unhealthy.
4. By making sure that his message was clear. That faith and belief in Jesus Christ is the only way to true freedom and true peace. (John 8:32, 36, Romans 5:1-6, Philippians 4:6-7)
5. By making sure that his motives and objectives were known. (1Thessalonians 2:1-14)
  - To be fruitful both in his life and ministry – not in vain and unfruitful. (vs. 1, John 15:7-8, 16)
  - To preach or proclaim the gospel boldly. (vs. 2, Acts 4:29-30, Ephesians 6:10-20)
  - To teach and preach the whole counsel of the Word of God. Without compromise, error, or deceitfulness. (vs. 3, 1 Timothy 4:1-10, Ephesians 4:11-14, Hebrews 4:12, John 10:10-13)
  - To please God and not man. (vs. 4-6, Colossians 3:23-24)
  - To represent Jesus Christ both in how we love and serve. (vs. 7-11)
- a. Behave in a gentle and loving manner – like a devoted mother nursing and cherishing her own children. (vs. 7, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Proverbs 16:18, Titus 3:1-7)
- b. Be willing to impart not only the gospel, but also love and giving of ourselves for others. (vs. 8)
- c. Be faithful and devoted to the ministry work of Jesus Christ. (vs. 9, John 4:34-35, 9:4-5)
- d. Be a true witness of Jesus Christ both in words and deeds. (vs. 10, Acts 1:8, 1 Timothy 1:12-17)
6. You are Christ's witnesses. (vs. 10)
  - Both believers and unbelievers are witnessing the way we talk and walk as representatives of Jesus Christ. (vs. 10)
  - But note that God is also witnessing both our talk and walk also. (vs. 10)
7. Behave as a loving father dealing with his children. (vs. 11) (Philippians 2:1-2, Titus 1:9)
  - Those who warn and protect.
  - Those who encourage and comfort.

- Those who support and lift up.
  - Those who teach and direct.
  - Those who use the gospel and the Word to reassure.
  - Those who build relationships and not destroy them.
8. You are to walk worthy of the calling of God. (vs. 12, Ephesians 4:1, 14-15, 1 John 2:6, Colossians 2:6)
- If the members are spiritually healthy and strong, so will that local church be as well. (vs. 13-14)
  - Apostle Paul shares with us how thankful he was to hear that these believers in this church had heard, received and applied the Word of God to their lives.
  - Apostle Paul teaches us why God's Word is more effective than the methods of the world. (vs. 14, Hebrews 4:12-13)
- There are (3) Three reasons why Apostle Paul was giving thanks and rejoicing in the Lord. (vs. 14)
1. The Thessalonian believers remained strong in their faith and trust in Jesus Christ in spite of being severely persecuted.
  2. These believers were following the example shown to them by the Judean churches who were also being severely persecuted.
  3. These believers gave us not only a good example to follow, but also a strong reminder:
    - A person will either stand in support of Christ or in opposition.
    - A church will either stand in support of Christ or in opposition.