

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.**