

DISCIPLESHIPS Part 1

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)

You are really my disciples! To whom Jesus said that and what He means of what He said? God is looking forward for disciples, who are learner and good follower of Christ. God is looking forward for people not only to believe in Christ but to follow Him and to live their lives like He lived. Jesus Christ is God’s Son; He came from heaven to save mankind from sin and death. Jesus Christ took the sins of the world when He suffered and died on the cross paying the prize of our sins. He was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives. The real disciples of Jesus are those who listen to Him and follow Him in their lives. The Lord Jesus Christ after His resurrection and before He went to heaven He gave this command to His Disciples and to us: ***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mathew 28:19-20)*** From the Lord command we can read the following instructions.

1- Go and make disciples: Our calling by God must accomplish the purpose of what God called us for. The Lord called us and sends us to go and make disciples. So our goal as disciples of our Lord is to go and make disciples. Life may make us busy and get involves in making business, or busy with our work and spend our time in our career. That is alright and not wrong but we should not forget to fulfill what God had call us for to go and make disciples. But beforehand the question that needs to be asked is this: Are you a real disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you a true follower of Him? Are you obedient to His commands? Do you know the Word of God well? Do you know how to handle the Word of the truth correctly? If you are a real disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ then you will be able to go and make disciples as the Lord had instructed. But if you are still struggling with your own sins and certain commands you are not following then you need to be under a care of people who are in the Lord and who can disciple you. It does not matter how long you are in the Lord but how much you are obedient and following God’s commands. Many who are long years in the Lord they need to be disciplined so they can walk with God faithfully.

2- Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Baptism by immersion in the water is a symbol to burry the old life. The believers in the Lord Jesus Christ they should put to death whatever belong to their sinful nature; to die with Christ and to burry with through baptism, so that as Christ raised from the dead they will rise after baptism to a new life in the Spirit.

3- Teaching them to obey everything Jesus had commanded us: The process of discipleship it will not be end up with few months or in short period of time, but it is a continuous process. God would clean us and perfect us through the study of His Word, through implementing what His Word teaches in our lives and the word of the Holy Spirit. It will continue until we reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of fullness of Christ. Now we will have few words of how the discipleship program would be going on and implemented.

A. Teaching the disciples the Word of God and all of His commands: Teaching is either by word or teaching by an example: As they see Christ in us they will learn form that and put it into practice, ***“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me -- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:9)***

B. Implementation of the teaching: Teaching without follow up is of no value. Teaching must be accompanied by the discipline of implementation. We need to follow up the disciples, admonishing them, correcting them and rebuking them when there is shortcoming in one aspect or another in their lives. On a personal level we need to speak to that particular disciple about a certain aspect of his life. Those who are willing to listen and follow Christ by obeying His Word we continue to feed them and care for their spiritual growth and invest more time and effort on them until they become mature enough that they can care for others. But those who does not follow the Lord it is not right to continue with them and walk with them while they are not showing any willingness to follow the Word of God. The Lord Jesus said, ***“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.” (John 10:27-28)*** Our material for discipleship is the Word of God; and this is the food that the sheep of Jesus they need to take to grow and become mature. We need to give to them the same love of God that God gave us and this through giving them His Word, ***“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” (2 Corinthians 5:15)***

My Dear and Beloved: The Word of God is clear, and the Teaching and the direction that Jesus gives us is clear. He wants real disciples who know the truth and who are set free by the truth. Therefore let us hold firmly to His teaching and obey His commands as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried but rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for Your Word that gives me direction to do Your will to be a real disciple and to obey you in making new disciples. Equip me Lord and provide for me to follow Your command. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*