

Journey of Discipleship

Walking With The Master
is the first in the
“Discipleship Series”

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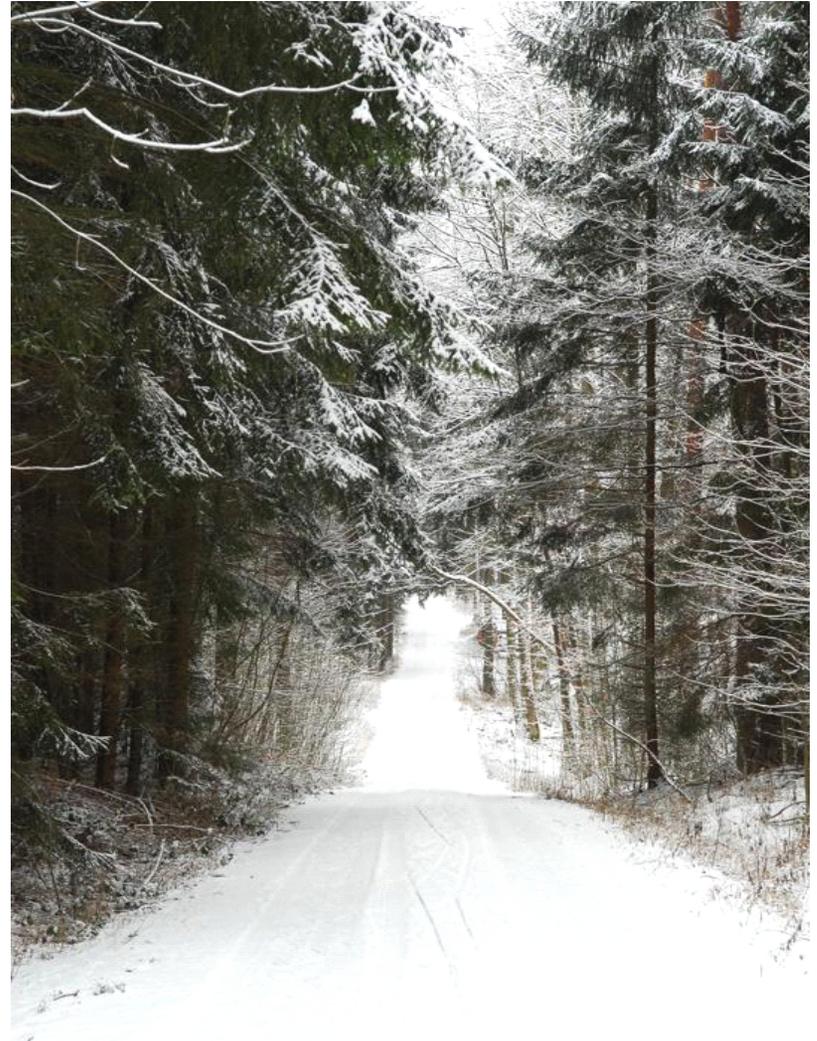
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Walking With the Master

Choosing the Master's Pathway

When making decisions use these guidelines to
Help you to discern and understand His guidelines for you.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:10
Life Application Bible

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS

Does this choice help my witness of Christ in my life?

[1 Corinthians 9:19-20]

Is my motivation to help others know Christ?

[1 Corinthians 9:23, 10:33]

Am I doing my best in making this choice?

[1 Corinthians 9:24-25]

Is it contrary to Scripture, or would it cause me to sin?

[1 Corinthians 10:12]

Is it the best course of action?

[1 Corinthians 10:22, 33]

Is my interest in the other person rather than myself?

[1 Corinthians 10:10-24]

Am I acting lovingly rather than selfishly?

[1 Corinthians 10:28-31]

Does it glorify another to sin?

[1 Corinthians 10:32]

Could it cause another to sin?

[1 Corinthians 10:32]

Choosing the Master's Pathway

How can I make Godly choices?

Making choices is the glue that holds together the plan, purpose and pathway of our lives. No other area of life is more important than the choices we make. Our lives are a composite of the choices we have made in the past, so to miss the importance of the choices we make is to change the course of life. This is the reason Jesus said to His disciples, "you are Mine and I love you but 'you need to have your feet washed' [John 13: 1-17]

Walking through this world causes the dust of the earth to stick to our feet and the confusion of the world to cloud our minds. Without the washing of our feet our walk leads to man-made paths and the confusion of the mind leads to man-made plans and purposes that will lead to a crooked path. You have this promise to depend upon:

"See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who appose you. " [Exodus 23:20-22

When we seek to sit at the feet of Jesus by meditating on His Word, He gives revelation about the details of our lives and understanding about our circumstances that can come no other way. The world is full to the brim and overflowing with information. However, a Disciple of Christ does not make choices according to worldly information but by revelation found only in His presence.

QUESTIONS ALONG THE WAY

Where do I begin

How can I know Him

How can I draw near to God

I want to know more about the Holy Spirit

How can I make Godly choices

What would Jesus say?...

Where Do I Begin?

Most scholars will tell you to begin by reading the Gospel of John. John, the disciple the one Jesus, called his beloved begins his manuscript by going back to the beginning. He goes back and establishes the fact that Jesus is the third person of the Trinity and as the Living Word He was in the beginning with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” [John 1:1-2]

How can I know Him?

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed” (John 8:31)

What is discipleship? What is the process? How many times I have heard that question asked. Yet like everything Jesus spoke, the answer is always simple and always supported. Abiding in the Word is not only where the answer is found but it is the answer. As we search out the meaning through abiding in God’s Word we are becoming followers of Christ.

It is written in Luke, *“Now it happened as they journeyed on the road”* – What road? *“The road of learning and living as a disciple, a follower of Christ”*. Even at the natural level we can only produce in like kind. Jesus mentored and molded his disciples by walking with them on the journey, talking with them when they had questions, encouraging them when their faith wavered, chastised them when they whined and wallowed in selfishness and self-pity. *But He loved them to the end.* The life of a disciple is simple and always surrounded by His Presence. *“Come...”* He said, *“...follow me and I will make you fishers of men!”*

Find a quiet spot—take paper, pencil and your Bible and sit quietly asking the Lord to be present with you by His Holy Spirit. Begin reading a little at a time quietly meditating on these few verses and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning within the Words. Read: John 15: 1-16

The Person of The Holy Spirit

Seven things Scripture tells us about the Holy Spirit:

- ❖ Courage is certainly an aspect of the Spirit. From the early days of the Church, those who were filled with the Spirit *“spoke the word of God with boldness”* [Acts 4:31]
- ❖ The Holy Spirit will guide us. Jesus said, *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth”* [John 16:13] To live our lives as wise servants of God the Holy Spirit imparts to us wisdom and discernment as we seek to do His Will.
- ❖ Supernatural power comes from the Holy Spirit. *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you”* [Acts 1:8] When God gives us a task to complete He gives us the power to fulfill the task.
- ❖ It is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin. *“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”* [John 16:8]
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is our Counselor. *“And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Counselor, that he may abide with you forever.”* [John 14:16] As counselor He guides, directs, warns and speaks to us of the plans and purpose of our lives.
- ❖ When we do not know how to pray the Holy Spirit prays for us. *“In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* [Romans 8:26]
- ❖ The power of the Holy Spirit working within our hearts produces the fruit in our lives that expresses the attitude of Jesus Christ. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...”* [Galatians 5:22]

Come follow Me.

The Person of The Holy Spirit

I need to know more about the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. God has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Within the inner life of God there is fellowship and love among three Divine Persons.

The Holy Spirit was active in creation (Genesis 1:2) and was known in the time of Joseph (Genesis 41:38). However, full revelation of the Holy Spirit occurred at Pentecost (Acts 2), when the Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit in John 16:5-16 and He fulfilled that promise and established the church age at Pentecost.

In Matthew 10:1-20 Jesus instructed the twelve disciples concerning an evangelistic mission he wanted them to undertake. This would be new territory for them, and so Jesus was specific about where they were to go, what they were to do, how they would respond in every circumstance and what to expect. He instructed them how to react to the situations they might face. Perhaps the biggest fear the disciples faced however, would be in knowing what to say when they were brought before the authorities. *“Do not worry...”* Jesus told them—*“... you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

At New Birth Christians receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, thereby assuring us of Christ’s presence with us at all times. When commissioned by God to be His witnesses—to ‘step up to the plate’ — to serve Him or to travel to the far reaches of the world as a missionary, the promise of power is available—*“...how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”* [Luke 11:13b] Listed here are seven of the many attributes of the Holy Spirit recorded in Scripture.

If other thoughts fill your mind—write them down and visualize yourself emptying your mind as you jot them down. Whatever kind of thoughts you have will become a prayer list — perhaps for wisdom about a situation or healing in a disturbing relationship or perhaps direction to something you have been wondering about. The more you jot down your thoughts the more still your mind becomes until there is peace and room to hear His voice. You will gain understanding about what you are reading. Write down what you are hearing and wait for the understanding to come.

- Sometimes understanding will come later but as you write down what you hear your faith will be built-up.
- Continue in this way—reading, meditating, writing, listening and writing again.
- Through this process your intimacy with Jesus will grow and deepen into a living loving reality.
- Your discernment of His voice and guidance will be sharpened as the bond between you becomes stronger.
- Direction through His Word will increase your insight into the Ways of God



Drawing Near To God

It is the desire of a loving heavenly Father that we draw close to Him—to know Him—and to seek His Presence. In the book of Acts Paul tells us in chapter 17:27 *“His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.”*

How then can we grow closer to Him? His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward Him and find Him—though He is not far from any one of us.

Teresa of Avila said this: *“You need not go to Heaven to find God, or to regale yourself with God. Nor need you speak aloud as if He were far away. Nor need you cry for wings like a dove to fly to Him. Settle yourself in solitude and you will come upon God yourself. And then entreat Him as your Father and relate to Him your troubles.”*

There are few holier moments in Scripture than the giving of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-26. God was present with Moses then and by the Presence of His Holy Spirit He is with us today. As He called Moses to Himself He calls us and through His Word He helps us to understand the journey.

Drawing near to God.

James 4: 7-10 is one place in the Bible where we are given suggestions concerning how to draw near to God:

- ❖ *We are to humble ourselves before God (v.7a).* Humility understands who God is and who we are in relationship to Him.
- ❖ *We are to resist evil (v.7b).* When we turn to God we deliberately turn away from all known sin; we resist the temptations that the enemy would use to make us stumble.
- ❖ *We are to draw close to God (v.8).* We do that through regular prayer times, reading the scriptures, worshiping God and spending time in fellowship with other Christians.
- ❖ *We are to wash our hands and purify our hearts (v8).* As long as we have “sin on our hands” or in our hearts, we cannot experience the closeness of God’s presence. Sin will cause us to become self-conscious rather than God conscious. Staying close to God gives God access to our hearts and allows the discipline of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction.

Drawing Near To God

- ❖ We are not to be merely “sorry” for our sins, but deeply repentant concerning them. To repent of sin means to turn away from sin—to know grief, to weep and sorrow of sin. True repentance means a change of heart and life.
- ❖ We are to bow down before the Lord trusting that He will lift us up (v.10); see also 1 Peter 5:6).

Drawing near to God means we come out of His presence with a humble and contrite heart. As we continue our journey in His presence, to our amazement, we find He has filled us with unspeakable JOY!

