

DISCIPLESHIP COURSE NOTES.

Christian Growth.

Jesus is Lord.

Acts 2:36 Jesus has been given **the highest position of authority as Lord.**

1 Cor.12:3 **No-one really accepts Jesus as Lord except by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Lk.16:13 **We are to be God's servants and cannot serve two masters.**

Lk.14:33 God only believes in complete takeovers and **we must surrender all that we have and are to Him.**

1 Cor.6:19-20 Once we have given our lives over to God, our bodies become a temple of the Holy Spirit and **we don't belong to ourselves any more.**

Lk.17:5-10 **We are God's servants and not the other way around!** We should not treat prayer as a shopping list or expect God to do things our way or fit in with our expectations.

Mt.24:45-47 **It is required of servants to be faithful in their duties and then they will be rewarded.**

Living by Faith.

Rom.1:17 **The Christian life is lived by faith from the start to the finish.**

Col.2:6-7 We live as Christians in the same way that we received Christ **which is by faith.**

Rom.14:23 **Anything that does not come from faith in our lives is sin.**

Gal.5:6 **Faith expressing itself through love** is the only thing that counts with God.

Mt.6:25-34 **We should seek God's will and to do what is right and trust in God to provide all our needs.** It is more important to do the right thing than to protect even our legitimate needs. **Worry comes from a lack of faith** in God's provision and protection and is therefore a sin.

Phil.4:13,19 **God will provide** all the strength we need to do everything that He asks us to do and all our physical needs as well.

Mt.14:22-33 Peter has faith to believe that if Jesus asks him to walk on the water then He will give him the power to do it and so he walks towards Jesus until he begins to doubt because he looked at the wind and the waves. **We can do the humanly impossible things that God asks of us if we keep our faith focused on Jesus.** Even when Peter sank through his lack of faith, Jesus pulled him up and rescued him.

Responsible to Grow.

Mk.4:30-32 **The Christian life is about growth.** Being born again is only the beginning and it takes a lifetime to grow. No quick or instant routes to spiritual growth!

1 Pet.2:2-3 **We need to grow up in our salvation.**

Eph.4:14-15 As newer Christians we can be influenced this way and that by different emphases of teaching or by people distorting what the Bible says but **we need to grow in Christ-likeness to become mature and stable in our faith.**

Heb.5:13-14 **Deeper teaching from the Bible and constant practice at discerning and doing good leads to spiritual maturity.**

2 Tim.2:4-6 **Single-minded, hard-working devotion to seeking to live God's way leads to growth.** Soldiers, athletes and farmers give up so many other things to devote their lives to their calling.

Mt.25:14-30 In the parable of the talents, Jesus illustrates how **God expects us to grow** in the gift of salvation that He has given us.

Phil.3:12-16 Towards the end of his life as he awaited his fate in a Roman jail, Paul is still looking to grow in his knowledge and love of God in Christ. He says **that we should not live in the past but strain and press on to the upward call of God.**

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Suffering for Christ.

1 Pet.4:12-16 **Do not be surprised when suffering comes as a Christian but expect it** because Christ Himself suffered and you will be rewarded. **Forewarned is forearmed!**

2 Tim.3:12 **Everyone who even wants to live a godly life will be persecuted.** You don't even have to succeed, just want to!

Phil.3:10 **Part of Christian growth and knowing Christ is to share in the fellowship of His sufferings.** Jesus was called a "man of sorrows" as He grieved over the sin and suffering of the world and if we are to truly know Him, we must understand and share in His feelings.

1 Pet.1:6-7 **Trials and suffering refine our faith by burning away impurities and are meant to turn us to God.**

Rom.5:3-5 **We can rejoice in our sufferings knowing that they produce perseverance and godliness in us** through the power of the Holy Spirit enabling us to endure them in God's way. It requires a greater love to do good in difficult rather than in easy circumstances.

2 Cor.4:7-9 **Our weakness demonstrates that God's grace in our lives is from Him and not from us.** The light in jars of clay refers to Gideon's army, Judges 7, when God told Gideon that his army was too big and to send men home or they would think that they achieved victory on their own.

2 Cor.12:7-10 **God wants us weak and in hardships, persecutions and difficulties so that He can show His power at work despite all the obstacles in the way.** His light is seen **more clearly** in the darkness!

Rom.8:17-18 **As we share in Christ's sufferings, we will also share in His glory.**

Phil.2:5-11 **Jesus was raised up to the highest place because of His love for God the Father and us in dying for us and we should have the same attitude.**

Treasure in Heaven.

Mt.6:19-21 **Jesus told us to store up treasure in heaven and not to pursue earthly gain.** Where our treasure is stored will be where our heart is centred. What do we really treasure?

2 Cor.5:10 **We must all appear before Jesus** to give account, be assessed, (not condemned as we are forgiven because of the cross), and to receive according to what we have done.

Gen.15:1 **God Himself, (knowing and being close to Him and His love), is our greatest reward.**

1 Thess.1:19-20 **The joy of seeing the result of being used by God** to physically and spiritually save people and encourage spiritual growth in their lives is a reward and treasure in heaven as a loving parent rejoices in the result of the hard work of bringing up their child.

Lk.16:1-12 A parable about how **we can use worldly wealth to gain true riches in heaven.** We will be **entrusted with more in heaven** if we have been faithful to God in this life.

Mt.10:42 **Even the smallest good deed has its reward.**

1 Pet.5:6 **God rewards humility.** The way up is down in God's kingdom!

Mt.5:11-12 **Suffering for Christ is rewarded in heaven.**

1 Cor.9:25-27 **We should exercise diligently and fight hard spiritually to win the prize of God's treasure** which is worth so much more forever than the medals that athletes train so strictly to win.

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Christian Service.

Worship.

Mt.4:10 **Worship which is a form of service should be given only to God.**

Rev.4:8-11 **“Worship” is about honouring and valuing what something or someone is worth. God is worshipped for His holy character,** (His loving kindness is worthy of praise), **and as the Creator of all things,** (whatever is beautiful, good, noble, right, pure or worthy of praise was made by God).

Rev.5:8-14 **Jesus is worshipped because of His love in sacrificing Himself to save mankind.** This worship is sung in joy, not said.

Ps.103 A psalm of praise which rises out of **remembering all God’s blessings to us and God’s loving and merciful character.**

Heb.13:15-16 Worship is a sacrifice of praise that involves **saying and singing praises to God and also doing good to others.**

1 Jn.4:19-21 Our worship of God comes out of **our experience of His love for us and must lead to loving our neighbours.**

Rom.12:1 **Offering ourselves to God wholly for His use is at the heart of true worship.**

Fellowship.

Mt.18:19-20 Although He is everywhere, **Jesus is especially present where His people gather in His name** and there is extra power in united prayer together.

Heb.10:25 **Meeting together encourages one another.**

Jn.17:20-23 **Jesus prayed that all His followers should be completely united in Him.**

Phil.2:1-4 We are encouraged to be **united in mind, spirit, purpose and love,** not doing anything from individual ambition or pride but looking out for other’s interests.

Ecc.4:9-10 **Fellowship involves helping each other in need** and Christians who isolate themselves miss out on the help of others.

1 Cor.12:21-28 We are all part of the body of Christ and no-one can say that they do not need other parts of that body as all are interdependent and needed for the body to grow properly. **Christians cannot grow as God intended on their own but need each other.**

Eph.4:11-16 **Spiritual gifts are to be used to equip God’s people to serve Him** so that the whole body of Christ may be built up in love into spiritual maturity together as each part does its work.

Acts 2:38-47 **Baptism was the symbolic entrance** into the fellowship of believers in Jesus who devoted themselves to **the apostles’ teaching, breaking bread together and prayer,** meeting together every day and holding all their possessions for the common good.

Giving.

1 Jn.3:16-17 We ought to love others as Jesus loved us and that involves **giving to those in need.**

Jas.2:15-16 Just words or prayers are not enough; **action is needed.**

Lev.27:30-32 The Old Testament law required a tithe of ten percent of agricultural produce to be given to the Lord which was then used by the Levite priests who had no land to work, (Num.18:20-21). The tithes of ten percent of the produce of eleven tribes would support the one tribe that had no land and this does not relate to the New Testament situation. It may however **represent a guide to a minimum to give.**

Mt.19:21 **Jesus asks a rich young man to sell his possessions and give to the poor.**

2 Cor.8:12-15 **Gifts should be given willingly according to how much we can afford.**

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2 Cor.9:6-15 **God rewards spiritually those who give generously and joyously** and this results in praise and thanks to God.

Lk.6:30-35 **Give even to enemies not expecting anything back in return and do to others what you would want them to do to you.** What would you want someone to do for you if you and your family were starving in the Third World?

Isa.58:1-12 **True fasting and seeking the Lord involves sharing our goods and ourselves with the needy** and then God will draw near and guide and bless us.

Evangelism.

Rom.10:14-15 **We need to preach the gospel for people to hear and get saved.**

1 Pet.3:15 **Always be ready to answer questions about the faith with gentleness and respect.**

2 Tim.4:2 **We need to spread the gospel in all situations** whether people are generally responding or not.

1 Cor.2:1-5 It is not necessary to know all the answers but **simply share the message** of God's love in sending Jesus to die for our sins. Paul himself was in weakness and fear when preaching in Corinth--- so much that he was trembling as he spoke to them! **It is God's power that convicts people of their need of salvation**, not our wisdom.

2 Cor.4:1-4 **We should present the truth of the gospel plainly** without trying to manipulate people and God will make His appeal to every man's **conscience**, (not mind or intellectual understanding).

Mt.7:6 **Better not to try to talk to people if they are obviously not interested.**

Mt.10:19-20 **God will give us the words to say when we are questioned.**

Jn.13:35 **Our love for one another will draw people to Jesus.**

1 Cor.9:19-23 **We need to build bridges to people that are different to us** by adapting ourselves to fit in with their way of looking at things and think of ways to explain the gospel message that they can readily understand and identify with, (without altering the message in any way).

Discipling others.

Mt.28:18-20 One of Jesus' last commands to His followers whilst He was on earth was to **make disciples from every ethnic group**, passing on His whole teaching.

2 Tim.2:2 Paul tells Timothy **to pass on the Christian teaching to reliable men who will in turn be able to teach others.**

Gal.6:1-2 **We should restore those who fall into sin and help bear each other's troubles.**

Rom.15:1-2 **The strong need to bear with the weak and adapt to them so as to build them up.**

Phil.4:9 **Older Christians should be an example for others to follow.**

1 Thess.2:6-12 Truly discipling others involves **loving and looking after them as a parent loves their children. It means sharing our lives**, not just our teaching-----discipleship is more caught than taught.

Phil.2:19-22 **Timothy really cared for other people's progress in the faith** and had travelled, lived and worked alongside Paul in God's work as Jesus' disciples did with Him.

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