

**Disciples and discipleship.**

Matt 28:18–20- 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Definition of Disciple;** One who follows Christ in His baptism and then pursues his understanding and “maturity” by learning Christ’s commandments. A Christian disciple, is a follower, a student of Christ.

“Baptizing and Teaching Disciples to Obey. The imperative (mathēteusate) implies both the call to discipleship and the process of becoming a disciple. Even as men and women are called from among the nations to start life as a disciple, they must in turn “follow” the Lord through baptism and through obedience to Jesus’ teaching. The participles “baptizing” (baptizontes) and “teaching” (didaskontes) describe activities through which the new disciple grows in discipleship. Growth in discipleship includes both identification with Jesus’ death and resurrection (baptism) and obedience to all that Jesus had commanded the disciples in his earthly ministry (teaching).” “DISCIPLESHIP,” DJG, 188.

1. Luke 6:40- A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.
2. Acts 11:26- And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
3. Acts 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”
4. Acts 20:7- Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

**Discipleship in the Church**

Eph 4:11–13- 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

God organizes the Church.  
officers/ gifts and the saints;  
what do they do?

What will maturity ultimately look like?

Ga 2:20- I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Christian- the life lived, is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved you, and gave Himself for you. The Church is the only thing on earth where you will become part of God’s will for the Christian and growing to maturity.

Corporate equipping, corporate and individual serving. Corporately and individually living by faith.

### **You as a Christian, learn what from Christ?**

**Rom 12:1–2-** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1. Your life as a Christian is not yours. You are a living \_\_\_\_\_
2. Each Christian places him or herself in subjection to God in order to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Being transformed results in your knowing \_\_\_\_\_

### **Christian life comes from Christ's wisdom and understanding God's will, lived by faith in Him.**

When Paul taught that, it wasn't so you could blindly figure it out. The Scripture will teach you!

Understanding these passages will instruct the Christian in the 'components' of living a life pleasing to God, and to prepared you abundantly for an entrance into the 'everlasting kingdom of our Lord'

**Col 1:9–14-** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

His will, known through spiritual wisdom and understanding. Carefully study over this passage and note how life pleasing to God flows from a mind and life formed by spiritual wisdom and understanding. This is only His wisdom revealed through the Scriptures. Only the Scriptures are God breathed (2Ti 3:16-17). Other ideas or principles not found in Scripture cannot be trusted to reflect His wisdom.

#### **notes:**

**2 Pet 1:3–12-** 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you

abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

This passage is very foundational to living the Christian life.

1. God's promises are how we can participate in God's life for us. How are you going to know them?

2. What virtues of godly character are we to be aware of and practicing? There are 8 listed here.

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- 7
- 8

What does this passage say a Christian can expect by applying diligence to understanding and living by these teachings? What does this passage teach about the need to know and be reminded of these things? Peter says he will be faithful to remind Christians of these things. This is part of how Christians live. Remind, and be reminded of these things.

### **Prayer and the exercise of faith**

Phil 4:6-7- 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer:

In the Bible prayer is worship that includes all the attitudes of the human spirit in its approach to God. The Christian worships God when he adores, confesses, praises and supplicates him in prayer. This highest activity of which the human spirit is capable may also be thought of as communion with God, so long as due emphasis is laid upon divine initiative. A man prays because God has already touched his spirit. Prayer in the Bible is not a 'natural response' (see Jn. 4:24). 'That which is born of the flesh is flesh.' Consequently, the Lord does not 'hear' every prayer (Is. 1:15; 29:13). The biblical doctrine of prayer emphasizes the character of God, the necessity of a man's being in saving or covenant relation with him, and his entering fully into all the privileges and obligations of that relation with God. "Prayer," NBD, 947-948.

**Psa 65:2-** O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come.

**Matt 6:5-7-** 5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will

reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

prayer principles:

**Matt 6:9–13-** 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

prayer principles:

**1 John 1:8–10-** 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

prayer principles: