

# DEVELOPING DISCIPLES



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## The Great Commission

**Matthew 28:18-20** Then Jesus came to them and said, *'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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.'*

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**Luke 9:23-24** Then he said to them all: *'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'*

Greek word for 'disciple' is ***mathetes*** – meaning a taught or trained one!  
Discipleship is defined as *learning, following and adhering to the ways of another; being intrinsically linked or connected to another.*

Being a disciple of Jesus is about knowing Him, trusting Him, following Him, learning from Him, abiding in Him, being changed by Him, obeying Him.

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**Colossians 2:6-7** *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

- Receiving Christ (Salvation)
- As Lord (Lordship)
- Continuing in Him (Relationship)
- Rooted in Him (Grounded and Nourished)
- Built up in Him (Maturity)
- Strengthened/established in the faith (Doctrinally)
- Taught (Teachable)
- Thankful (Gratitude)

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

1. A disciple is one who **holds to the teachings of Jesus**

**John 8:31** *If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*

- Psalm 119:105
- John 15:7

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

2. A disciple is one who **loves God's people**

**John 13:34-35** *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

- 1 John 3:16-18

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

3. A disciple is one who **bears spiritual fruit**

**John 15:8** *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

- Ephesians 2:10

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

4. A disciple is one who **obeys Jesus' commands**

**Matthew 28:20** *And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.*

- Psalm 119:11
- Luke 6:46

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

5. A disciple is one who **denies self** (sacrifice & Surrender)

**Matthew 16:24** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple, must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'*

- Luke 14:33
- Luke 5:11

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

6. A disciple is one who **perseveres in their faith**

**Matthew 24:12-13** *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

- Hebrews 10:36
- James 1:4

# BIBLICAL EVIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

**A true disciple is someone who:**

1. Holds to the Words of Jesus
2. Loves the people of Jesus
3. Bears the fruit of Jesus
4. Obeys the commands of Jesus
5. Surrenders fully to Jesus
6. Perseveres with Jesus

## Where there is no discipleship, we'll have...

- Conversions without transformation
- Numbers without depth
- Religion without relationship
- Ministry without intimacy
- Opinions without convictions
- Grace without truth
- Activity without effectiveness
- Spiritual talk without spiritual fruit

## Where there is no discipleship, we'll have...

- Enthusiasm without perseverance
- Passion without obedience
- Spectators but few participants
- Consumers but few contributors
- Hearers but few doers
- Members but few disciple-makers
- Impressed with Jesus but not submitted to Jesus
- Big front door but an equally big back door