



# The Disciple's Call and Charge

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity. II Timothy 1:8-9

**Created, Called and Empowered  
by God for Service**

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# **The Disciple's Call and Charge**

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**TITLE: The Disciple's Call and Charge**

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## Preface

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urges the disciples to follow Him. He has laid down the teaching and the walk before us that we need to follow in His steps as our supreme example.

It is key for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

It is our belief here at Project L.A.M.B.S. that it is important and key for the disciples to know and understand clearly what and who they are in Christ before they will be able to pass it on to someone else. Our hope is that you will want to commit yourselves and take seriously this pilgrimage journey that you are about to take.

It will not be easy and for many it will be like looking in a mirror and seeing things you really do not want to know or see. But before something can become mature it has to start as a seed then be nurtured by its environment before it can become mature enough to produce more fruit. This takes time, dedication and training in the disciplines of Christ.

James 4:10 tells us that this discipleship journey starts by “humbling thyself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.”

Secondly, we learn through Paul and James that it is important to draw closer to Christ, to who He is, so that we could begin to make the next step of making a lifelong commitment to Him as a disciple.

James 4:8a points out that as you draw closer to Christ; He will draw closer to you. This training is to help the disciple to understand who they are, so that they can give it away to someone else and to keep spreading the good news to as many as would receive it.

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This booklet is for you to learn from so that you could take two or three other people and teach and equip them in their faith so that they could in turn teach, equip and train also two or three more people (multiplication factor).

This is a pilgrimage that I believe that Jesus is taking us on so that we will be able to fulfill the great commission of making disciples so that they could become laborers who will bring in the last day harvest that is ready (Matthew 9:37-38).

Our call is not to be so much a Nehemiah, who built physical walls, but to be an Ezra, who built a spiritual relationship in people with God. Ezra means “the one who helps.” The role of the teacher is to help guide and equip others in their discipleship walk with Jesus Christ.

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## Introduction:

At the beginning of each discipleship step you will find a key verse that sets the foundation for the entire book. The booklet is also set up in the “**A. B. C. Method**” of outlining. “**A**” representing the word **approach** (as known as introduction) which helps to introduce the section that will be discussed. “**B**” is the **body** of teaching that helps to better explain the topic and “**C**” represents the **conclusion**. This is where the teaching is summed up, plus it gives to the reader ideas on how to apply this truth to one life.

Each booklet also has as a memory verse, plus a little prayer to help the disciple to focus his prayer life on. Each section point contains one to three questions to help the disciple to think about that point in their own personal lives. There is also study question and extra Scriptures that could be used in a group setting. Example: cell groups, Sunday school etc. Pastors could also use these materials as a foundation for a sermon.

The best way for people to learn, is for the reader to clearly study and understand each step themselves personally and then for them to go out and teach someone else. This will bring greater discipline and understanding into one's own personal lives.

We pray that as you freely receive you will freely give to others around. The Holy Spirit is our great teacher and we need to call upon him as we study these lessons individually or as a group. God wants to use **YOU** as a channel of His love and grace, to be a vessel of faith and hope to people who you will come into contact with each day. I encourage you to “Keep on keeping on for Jesus Christ”.

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*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.*

*II Timothy 1:8-9*

## **APPROACH:**

The first major effort of Jesus was the calling of the twelve disciples. Christ speaks and calls you to Himself – to awake, to turn aside, and to follow Him. One must, above all, have at the center of one's heart a "call" to follow Christ, to forsake the world, and to make Him Lord, Saviour, and King. This is the key component of what it means to be a true disciple.

In this booklet we will look at the call of Christ and how this is so foundational to the walk of the disciple. The call of God comes to us by the Holy Spirit. He speaks to us through the Word. This call can be broken down into various parts that will shed light on what it means to be called by Christ. Christ calls us to follow, to changes, to submission, to choices, to friendship and to a discipleship lifestyle. All these are just some of what it means for a disciple to be called by Christ Jesus.

## **FOCUS AND TARGET FOR TEACHER AND STUDENT**

**TEACHER:** Your goal is to lead the students to an understanding of their call to active discipleship; that yielding one's life in full submission to Christ will bring changes in their lives which will enable them to serve Christ and others daily.

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**STUDENT:** You will learn what true discipleship is: your obedient response to following Christ in all areas of life, resulting in daily service to Him who has called you, and to others.

## DEFINITIONS AND SYNONYMS

*Understanding the meaning of words is the heart to understanding Scripture. Words are the bridge that can help us to understand more about ourselves and about God and His word, the Bible. Please take time to meditate and reflect on the broad and narrow view of each word as defined, along with its synonyms.*

**Call:** announce, proclaim, to summon; to invoke solemnly; to call God to witness; to summon to a specific work; to call someone to ministry; to arouse someone from sleep. *Synonyms:* announce, awaken, cry out, hail, proclaim, waken, assemble, invite, summon, name, declare, ordain, set apart, consider, think.

**Awaken:** to arouse from sleep; to stir up; become awake, to become alert or aroused; an arousing of attention or interest; revive. *Synonyms:* activate, alert, awake, call forth, kindle, revive, stimulate, stir up.

**Invite:** to ask, a person to come or to do something; to make a request for a response. *Synonyms:* ask, beg, bid, call, request, solicit, summon, lead, draw, encourage.

**Charge:** to impose a particular duty or task on; to entrust with responsibility, care, custody or management of something or someone; to command or exhort with authority. *Synonyms:* burden, encumber, duty or task, directive, order, command, dictate, exhort.



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## SCRIPTURE

*Scripture is the key to a good biblical foundation and it is the next step to help us as a disciple to mature in Christ. Please look up and read each portion of the Scriptures in their entirety. Take into account the author who wrote it, who it was written to and the context in which it relates to the other verses and chapters around it.*

**II Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and **called** us with a holy **calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.

## STUDY

Paul wanted Timothy to understand something that was going to be the key and foundation stone to his life. He needed to remember it through the good times, challenging times and the very hard times. We as a disciple also need to keep this in the front part of our mind and never, never let go of it. We have been called by Christ to bear His testimony and to be an example of His power to others. We need to remember above everything else that He has saved us and called us to walk personally with Him for the rest of our lives. We have not been called according to our ability or our works, but according to His purpose and grace. Christ has a purpose for us and we need to look to Him and call out to Him to give us the grace to fulfill it. Christ has granted all to us that we will need. We need to apply it into our everyday walk. We stand as a disciple of Christ because He has called us for a purpose and by His amazing grace. The disciple is called and charged by Christ to go forth, not in his own will or strength, but through His will and strength, and to help us accomplish this He has sent the Holy Spirit to empower us with the ability to fulfill God's will for our lives.

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## BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

The Bible is full of illustrations showing how God calls and speaks to His people. Take time to look up these verses and reflect on how God called these people to be His vessels for service. Notice how God calls everyday people to Himself and His Kingdom.

### *Old Testament*

Abraham: Gen 12:1-12 (Family man, father)

Moses: Exodus 3:1-22 (Herdsman)

### *Gospels*

Disciples: John 1:35-51 (Fishermen, etc.)

### *Epistles*

Paul: Acts 9:1-19 (Teacher)

Timothy: II Timothy 1:8-9 (Student)

These are people with normal lives, yet God called them to do extraordinary things for His glory.

## OBJECT LESSON

**Phone:** When the phone rings, we usually answer it and at the moment of connection we then are able to tell who is on the other end of the line. A phone gives us the opportunity to have two way communication. We become connected to the other person who has called us. It is the same with God. He calls out to us and desires that we connect so that we will be able to begin a personal relationship with them. He calls out to us by the Holy Spirit, and it is by our free will whether we will answer or not. He is calling: will we answer His call on our lives today?

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## Transition:

What follows are six key parts, which give us the bigger picture to what it means to be “called” by God for a purpose and the reason for our existence here on earth.

## **BODY:**

### POINT ONE: CALLED TO FOLLOW

**LEAD-IN:** To be called to follow in someone else's footsteps would require great faith in the person you have chosen to follow. It may mean leaving life as you know it behind and going in a new direction in your lifestyle and in what you believe. He leads. We follow. He goes before us like a shepherd before His sheep.

#### DEFINITION AND SYNONYMS:

**Follow:** come after; come next; step into the shoes of; accompany; act in accordance with; be guided by; comply; conform; give allegiance to; live up to; to pattern oneself upon; take as an example; be devoted to; support. *Synonyms:* heed, mind, note, obey, observe, regard, watch, adopt, copy, emulate.

#### KEY SCRIPTURE:

**Matthew 4:18-22** Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was **called** Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said\* to them, “**Follow** Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and **followed** Him. Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the

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boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He **called** them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and **followed** Him.

## CONTEXT: Matthew 4:1-17

- The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness.
- Jesus was confronted in three specific areas (body, soul, spirit).
- The attacks were over after 40 days and angels came to minister to Him.
- Jesus began His ministry and went to Capernaum.
- He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah.
- Jesus began to preach that the people were to repent, for the kingdom of heaven was at hand.
- The call of some of the disciples as Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee.

## INSIGHTS:

There is a time of crossing over from one way of living to another way. Jesus gives us new life and is a bridge into that new way of living. If we will take that first step of faith and are willing to follow Him, we see three specific paths outlined for us in John 14. Here Jesus declares, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but through me.”*

1. He offers a new way of living to follow.
2. He gives us truth to live by.
3. He gives to us a new life to experience.

He does all of this through grace and love. He pours Himself into our lives so we can be poured into the lives of others. Freely we have received and now, freely, we give. He models for us so we can be a model to others.

There will be challenges and the road will not be easy. Many people say they will follow, but their actions and heart show differently (Matthew

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8:19:23). The disciples heard the Master's call and left everything and followed Him (John 1:35-51).

The Jewish people also faced the challenge of following God or staying in Egypt in slavery and bondage. Even when they left Egypt the challenges were before them. The call of God is not easy as a disciple because this call comes from Christ with a purpose to stretch and mature our faith. The Jews needed to begin to see and put their trust and faith in Yahweh God. When they did they saw that He would protect them and guide them.

The Bible is to be a road map for the disciples to follow. Christ has a plan and a direction that He desires us to follow. He calls so that we can follow Him out of love and obedience. The Scriptures gives us a **truth** to live by, a **way** that we should follow and a new **life** that we are to live.

## RELEVANCE:

We are called to step out from who we are and to go forward in faith, knowing that God will provide and empower us for service. He called the disciples, some of whom were fishermen, to step out of their way of provision and into trusting that God Himself would look after them. The battle is between our will and our desire for the things of this world, or the things of God's kingdom. We will struggle, but the key to true peace of heart comes by first answering "yes" to the call of Christ Jesus.

## REFLECTION:

What have I left behind in my following of Jesus Christ?

## RELATED SCRIPTURES FOR THE LESSON:

**Matthew 9:9** As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said\* to him, "**Follow Me!**" And he got up and **followed** Him.