

# Christ's Disciple



"...If you remain faithful to my teaching,  
and you will know the truth, and the truth  
will set you free."

John 8:31-32

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

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**TITLE: Christ's Disciples**

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## PREFACE

Welcome to the discipleship / leadership series. These little booklets were designed to give basic information concerning various topics about our Christian faith in Christ Jesus.

The purpose of this series is to stimulate thought and to foster a clearer understanding of discipleship and servant leadership. These booklets can be used as a discussion tool for personal study, family devotion, youth meetings or in cell groups. Our hope is that this information will stir the readers and encourage them to go deeper into personal research and study.

Our desire is that these booklets will be a blessing to the reader and a tool that can be shared with others as a gift of encouragement.

Please feel free to mail or e-mail us for more copies or to just write to us with any feedback concerning the content of these studies. We hope you enjoy this offering of knowledge and experience. We pray that Christ will draw you into an ever deeper personal relationship with Himself as you study.

Your servants in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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## INTRODUCTION

You have made a commitment to Jesus Christ by praying and confessing your sin and inviting Him into your heart as Lord and Savior. There are now some new principles that apply to your life.

You may be asking the question, “What does my decision to follow Christ mean?” In some ways it’s like building a house – you have established the foundation and now need to build the rest of the structure. As another example, it is like seeds that have been planted in the garden of your heart. In order to see those seeds mature and bear fruit, key steps need to be added.

Your decision to become a follower of Christ has birthed a new relationship and family. It has made you what the Bible calls a disciple.

### **As for relationships:**

Your commitment opens the door for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He desires to be with you every step – to walk with you through the good and hard times of growing and maturing. He is with you everywhere you go.

### **As a family member:**

Your commitment to Christ has birthed you into a new family – a body of brothers and sisters and people of like faith. You are not alone on this earthly journey. Christ has made you a part of His body, the church. You are a member that is unique and

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gifted for service. The church is a place to go for help and encouragement and be strengthened in your walk with Christ.

## **As a disciple:**

Your commitment has also made you a student of Christ. This simply means that you have decided:

- To follow the teachings and ways of Jesus
- To come under His discipline and training
- To take on a new lifestyle
- To die to self, giving everything to Christ.

You are now a new creation.

In essence, you have become a child of God. In some ways, you are like a baby that needs training and nurturing in your new faith. What follows is a brief outline of key points which, if applied to your life, will help in growing and maturing as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## **1. A Disciple Needs to Study the Bible**

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

2 Timothy 2:15

Paul, a Biblical figure, told a good friend that it was important to study the Bible as it was the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). The Bible is God's "love letter" to us and is His way of sharing His heart. Paul goes on to tell Timothy that because the

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Bible is inspired it becomes a basis for teaching others, for bringing about correction to our lives and providing training in righteousness. This creates an end goal of being adequately equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

King David was another Biblical figure who knew the importance of studying and meditating on the Word. He tells us that the person who meditates (or reflects) on the Word of God is like a tree planted by the riverside. This tree will bear fruit and its leaves will not wither, prospering in all that he does (Psalms 1:2-3). Later in the 119<sup>th</sup> chapter of Psalms David tells us that the Word is a lamp to your feet which will help us from sinning (v.11). As we study scripture, it gives light and understanding to the simple (Psalms 119:30).

Jesus proclaims Himself to be the living Word (John 1:1-3) that bridges us to the Father in Heaven. He taught the disciples that He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). The Word (Jesus) is what sets the captive free (John 8: 31-32). As the Word becomes evident in our lives people will see change, proving we are Christ's disciples (John 8:31). The Word of God is the Rock that we must build our lives on. All other things are as shifting sand (Matthew 7: 24-27). James exhorts us not to be hearers of the Word but doers also. Our faith in Christ should lead us to action.

Finally, Hebrews tells us that the Word equips us for battle (Hebrews 4:12) as we are in a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:12). The enemy wants to deceive, divide, destroy and kill, but the Word of God helps us to overcome. John tells us that "greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

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You must daily get into the Word so that the Word can get into you.

## 2. A Disciple Needs to Pray

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

Philippians 4:6

Prayer is simply a two way communication between ourselves and God. Relationships are built through communication – both verbally and non-verbally, expressing the heart of the speaker. Prayer means seeking, asking, knocking and approaching God first (Matthew 7:7). It is the door we enter to learn the Father's will for our lives.

Often we don't know how to pray. This was a question that the disciples asked Jesus. His response was the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). This prayer is a pattern of how to pray through life's journey.

Again using King David, we see the importance of prayer. He asked the Lord to give ear to his prayer and consider the groaning of his heart. He stated that only God was King and Lord. David waited eagerly to hear and watch what the Lord would say and do (Psalms 5:1-3).



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Jesus set an example of prayer for the disciples (Mark 1:35). Often when Jesus prayed He would bring the disciples with Him. Unfortunately, the flesh would sometimes get the better of these men and they fell asleep (Mark 14:37-41). We are encouraged to pray often. Paul tells the Thessalonians church to pray without ceasing. Stated another way, we need to be to praying in all things (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

We also need to pray when we speak as Christ's ambassadors (Ephesians 6:8-20). Our biggest enemy in witnessing is fear and worry but through prayer we can be overcomers (Philippians 4:4-7). Sometimes when one struggle with getting into a habit of prayer, it can be helpful to get a "prayer partner" that will walk along with you, one that you can trust and know that they are there to support and encourage you as you are for them.

Prayer is simply asking the question “**What Would Jesus Do**” (**W.W.J.D.**)? Most importantly, we need to see things through the eyes of Christ. Prayer focuses us on Him, lifting our eyes off ourselves. It helps us to view things through spiritual eyes rather than worldly eyes. Prayer gives us renewed hope, peace and strength to face challenges that each day may bring. **PRAYER CHANGES THINGS.**

### 3. A Disciple Needs to Be Directed

*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. John 14:26*