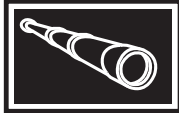


# CHAPTER A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

# 2



## A VIEW FROM THE SHORE

"If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

*Mark 8:34-36*

**W**e find the above verse written in three of the four gospels, emphasizing the seriousness of the Lord's call to discipleship. In Matthew, the passage is preceded by the account of Peter's revelation of Jesus as the Christ, and it's followed by the rebuke Peter receives for allowing Satan to influence the things of God. Both experiences—the recognition and confession of Jesus as the Son of God, and refusing Satan access to his heart and mind—were only the start of what it would mean to be Jesus' disciple. Indeed, if anyone would come after Him, it would cost more—it would require their very lives. Of the twelve original disciples, ten would eventually die for their Messiah and the proclamation of His good news (gospel).

A disciple is someone who places himself under another's tutelage to learn his way of life and to carry his cause. The disciple-student learns from his master-teacher by listening, watching and participating together with him in the events of daily living. The student is shaped by the teacher's influence and gleans from his expertise and experiences. Disciples are instructed, corrected, encouraged and coached along in a discipleship journey. In short, the disciple-student becomes a lot like the master-teacher, in life and in purpose. This is what Jesus

had in mind when He called men and women to follow Him in discipleship. He called them to become like Him and to disciple others to do the same.

A disciple of Jesus is not merely someone who believes Jesus is real, or regularly attends church activities. Becoming baptized doesn't make a person a disciple, nor does tithing or simply being good. These things are important, but Jesus gave us a higher criterion for what it means to be His disciple. In the above scripture, He said a disciple denies himself, takes up his cross, and follows after Him, giving his or her life to Christ and the gospel.

To grow as a disciple requires a willing and teachable heart, not to mention a radical commitment to obey Jesus. It takes the support of other people who are further along in their walk with God. To get the most from this book, find another person or group of people you can walk with as you work through these chapters. As these relationships develop, invite them to speak into your life. Remember that discipleship is born from relationship, first with Jesus, then with others. We are all to place ourselves under the tutelage of Jesus, and it is His desire that we help each other mature in our lives as disciples. Who are the people in your life discipling you, and who are you discipling?



# SETTING SAIL

To those who would hear and believe, Jesus has called them to join Him in the purposes of His Father. Discipleship is a lifestyle, not merely church membership. It requires *discipline*, hence the term, which is obviously built from the same root used in *discipleship*. We are cautioned to count the cost of our commitment, for it is not an idle or passive vow we make. The call to discipleship essentially is a call to become trainers. In taking up the call we, ourselves, must be trained so we can train others.

## ● *The Conditions of Discipleship*

When Jesus spoke to the multitudes, He cautioned them, saying, "Enter through the narrow gate." He said, "Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it." (Mt. 7:13-14). At that very moment, as Jesus spoke, the Master Disciple identified the ground upon which He stood and the uncommon path He traversed. To follow Him meant diverging from the road commonly traveled. The disciple's journey would not resemble the life he or she had previously known. It was also marked by key conditions.

### **Repentance – Mt. 4:17-22; Acts 2:38, 26:20; 2 Cor. 7:10**

Repentance is a turning around, a turning from sin towards God and His ways. Repentance is a heart change that comes in response to a revelation of God's grace and mercy, the depth and consequences of our sin and selfishness, and the need for Jesus in our lives. It leads to confession of sin and includes making things right with those whom we have sinned against, and asking forgiveness from God and others. Repentance reflects the willingness of the heart to let Jesus be Lord—to allow Him charge over our lives.

### **Faith in Jesus – Mk. 1:15; Rom. 10:9,10; Eph. 2:8,9; Heb. 11:6**

Faith, or believing, is not mere credence, but an active trust and reliance on Jesus for everything, from our salvation to our daily needs. We no longer look to ourselves for answers or follow our own lead, but we place our lives in His hands.

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 2 — A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

### **Loving Jesus – Mt. 10:37-39; Mk. 12:28-31**

Disciples love Jesus above everything and everyone. Their foremost thoughts and affections, motivations, desires, actions and commitments all support an uncompromising love for God, bringing Him glory and honor.

### **Denying Self and Taking Up the Cross– Mt. 16:24; Mk. 8:34; Lk. 9:23**

Self-denial, from a biblical point of view, yields to the desires of the Holy Spirit rather than to the desires of the flesh. The Bible teaches us that the flesh and the Spirit are in conflict with each other (Gal. 5:16-26). This does not mean that we can't enjoy God-given things in life. It simply means that we live in pursuit of the Holy Spirit's desires rather than being driven by what we want to do. The Cross modeled death for us, and beckons us to die to our rights to our talents, resources, family and friends, use of our time, career, reputation, future. We surrender all rights to His service.

### **Following Jesus – Mt. 4:18-22; Mk. 10:17-31; Lk. 5:27-32; Jn. 21:15-25**

Following Jesus means forsaking all else. The call of the disciple requires us to leave everything behind in order to free ourselves to serve Jesus. Discipleship places our lives completely under His Lordship and allows Him reign as the Master of our lives. When we commit to discipleship, we commit to follow where He leads (Mt. 28:20).

---

## *The Cost of Discipleship*

When a teacher of the law approached Jesus, saying that he would follow Him wherever He led, Jesus presented the man with a vivid picture of what that commitment would entail. Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Mt 8:19-21). Imagine, the King of Kings without even a modest place to call home. Are you prepared to follow where He leads? Have you considered the cost?

### **A Difference in Standards – 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:17-21**

Disciples of Jesus live by the absolutes, truths and values revealed in Scripture, not according to the standards of the world around them.

*Disciples love Jesus  
above everything and everyone.*

---

---

*Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes,  
and accept Thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to Thee to be  
Thine forever. Fill me and seal me with Thy Holy Spirit. Use me as Thou wilt. Send me  
where Thou wilt. Work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever.*

**A Despising by Society – Mt. 5:10-12; Jn. 15:19-20; 2 Tim. 3:12**

Because disciples of Jesus live for God, those who don't will not understand. They may reject you or become angry because you don't fit in to their crowd or the world's system any more. The same reaction may even come from lukewarm, backslidden Christians.

**A Discipline of Self – Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:27; 1 Cor. 9:24-27**

The disciple of Jesus allows the Holy Spirit into their lives to tighten up areas where they have been lax or let themselves go. They choose not to give any edge to the devil.

**A Battle to Engage – Jn. 10:10; Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Tim. 2:1-4**

When we become Christians, the enemy of our soul, the devil, will do everything he can to steal, kill and destroy our walk with Jesus. The good news is that Jesus has overcome the devil, so we can too (1 Jn. 3:8, 4:4).

**A Life Laid Down – Jn. 12:23-26, 13:1-17, 15:13; Rev. 12:11**

Following Jesus is others-centered. It requires laying down our rights and desires to follow Jesus wherever he leads us and to give of ourselves on behalf of others.

**A Sticking to the Task – Rom. 5:1-5; Phil. 3:12-14; 2 Tim. 4:7-8; Heb. 12:1-3**

Disciples of Jesus have been called to the most awesome assignment in the world—to know God and to make Him known to the world. The disciple's journey will have ups and downs, but as we cling to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, we will finish well.

***The Characteristics of Disciples***

**Observations from the Book of I John**

When we love Jesus, we see the truth He brings and we are changed. With a heart to follow Him, we are presented with choices in our thoughts, actions, and attitudes. Answering the call of discipleship, however, requires that we become like the One who disciples us. A disciple of Christ surrenders his or her choices for the perfect and holy will of the Father.

- Disciples testify to and proclaim the reality of Jesus (1 Jn. 1:1-4).
- Disciples walk in the light (1 Jn. 1:5-10).
- Disciples obey Jesus (1 Jn. 2:3-5).
- Disciples live like Jesus (1 Jn. 2:5-6).
- Disciples don't love the world (1 Jn. 2:15-17).
- Disciples don't practice sin (1 Jn. 3:8-10, 5:18).

**THOUGHTS & NOTES**

---



---



---



---



---

## CHAPTER 2 — A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

- Disciples love other people (1 Jn. 3:14-18, 4:7-21).
- Disciples are of the Spirit (1 Jn. 4:1-6, 13).
- Disciples aren't driven by fear (1 Jn. 4:18).
- Disciples overcome the world, the flesh and the devil (1 Jn. 2:15-17, 3:8, 5:1-5, 5:18).
- Disciples pray according to God's will (1 Jn. 5:13-15).
- Disciples keep themselves from idols (1 Jn. 5:21).

---

### *The Disciple's Cause*

Disciples of Jesus desire to see all nations worship Him. They carry a vision in their hearts described in the book of Revelation where every tribe, language, people and nation worships before the throne of God. This passion permeates all that they do. Disciples view everything through this vision. Their choices arise from viewing their entire lives through the grid of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20).

#### **Preach the Good News to All Creation – Mk. 16:15-20**

The message of the gospel of grace will advance only if disciples of Jesus obey His command to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to hear the gospel. Paul, the apostle, decided where he would minister next according to where the need existed (Acts 13-28; Rom. 10:14,15, 15:20).

#### **Serve as Ambassadors of Reconciliation – 2 Cor. 5:17-21**

God has given us the ministry and message of reconciliation. The lives of disciples are given to reconciling man to God, and as an overflow, people to people. This includes the reconciling of families, races and generations.

#### **Make Disciples of All Nations – Mt. 28:18-20**

God created every tribe, language, people and nation to express His character and glory in the Earth. He desires them to gather at His throne in heaven (Rev. 5:9-14, 7:9-12). His disciples recognize that leading people to a new faith in Jesus is just the beginning of their journey as believers. Disciples pass on what has been passed to them—they commit to disciple new believers in truths from God's Word and to mentor them in God's ways.

#### **Give God Glory – Jn. 17:4; 1 Cor. 10:31**

Jesus brought the Father glory by completing what He had been given to do on Earth. As disciples of Jesus, we follow His lead. Our lives purpose to bring God glory. We want Jesus lifted up, not ourselves.

---

*If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.*

*C.T. Studd, 1860-1931, British Cricket Player and Missionary to China, India, Africa*

*The price is high. God does not want partnership with us, but ownership of us!*

*Leonard Ravenhill, 1907-1994, English Evangelist and Revivalist*



# DEEPER WATERS

Disciples of Jesus stand out because they reflect God's light in a dark world. They display the character of the one true God, drawing the world to their Savior. Disciples commit themselves to following Jesus and to walking in His ways. Through this devotion, they bring glory to God.

The following seven qualities reside at the core of the disciple's life. These areas need continuous cultivation and development within the deepest places of a disciple's heart. These qualities rightly align one to God's ways and purposes, while also providing a fortress of defense against the fiery darts of the devil. They are keys to walking in unity with other believers, and they reflect, in attitude, the very heart of Jesus, giving unbelievers the opportunity to experience Him through our lives.

## Love

### *Choosing the Highest Good for God, Others, and Yourself*

#### Foundations of Love

- God is love (1 Jn. 4:16).
- We can love because He has first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19).
- Disciples love Jesus above everyone and everything else (Mt. 22:37-38; Jn. 21:15-17).
- We are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 22:39).
- Love is the distinguishing mark for the world to know that we are disciples of Jesus (Jn. 13:34-35).
- Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another, which means it's possible (Jn. 15:12).
- Love is expressed in its greatest way when we lay down our lives (and agendas) for others (Jn. 15:13).
- We are to love our enemies (Mt. 5:44).
- The love of Jesus compels us to reach the lost (2 Cor. 5:11-21).

**Love is the distinguishing mark for the world  
to know that we are disciples of Jesus.**

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 2 — A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

### Qualities of Love – 1 Cor. 13:1-8

- No matter who we are, or what we believe, or how God can use us, without love we are nothing (vv. 1-3).
- Love is patient. It is longsuffering, not easily irritable or quick to flash a temper (v.4).
- Love is kind. It thinks more highly of others; recognizes and creatively meets the needs of others (v. 4).
- Love does not envy. It appreciates what others have without entertaining jealousy (v. 4).
- Love does not boast. It does not draw attention to oneself or seek to contrive a favorable impression (v. 4).
- Love is not proud. It is not self-centered; it recognizes that life doesn't revolve around oneself (v. 4).
- Love is not rude. It honors others at all times (v. 5).
- Love is not self-seeking. It is not primarily concerned with self-gratification, but with seeking the comfort and welfare of others (v. 5).
- Love is not easily angered. It lays down one's own life for others. When one's will is crossed, they do not become emotionally charged. Love is not overly-sensitive or quick to take on feelings of rejection or hurt (v. 5).
- Love keeps no record of wrongs. It does not rehearse wrongs that have been forgiven (v. 5).
- Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It mourns sinfulness, taking no pleasure in another's failure. It despises deceit and deception. Love seeks, receives and celebrates truth at all times and at all costs (v. 6).
- Love always protects. It doesn't expose the sin and weaknesses of others, but covers (v. 7).
- Love always trusts. It believes in a person's worth and integrity (v. 7).
- Love always hopes. It persists through dark times. Love never gives up because God is love (v. 7).
- Love always perseveres. It continues to love even when there is not love in return (v. 7).
- Love never fails. It is still there when everyone and everything else is gone (v. 8).

**Disciples of Jesus stand out because they reflect God's light in a dark world. They display the character of the one true God, drawing the world to their Savior.**

---

*Be faithful in the little practices of love which will build in you the life of holiness and make you Christlike.*

*Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1910-1997, Missionary to the Poor*

*Christian love, either towards God or towards man, is an affair of the will.*

*C.S. Lewis, 1898-1963, English Intellectual Giant, Writer*

---

## Forgiveness

### *Releasing Others from Wrongs Suffered*

Injury, especially emotional injury, tempts us to cling to the wrong-doings of others. We want to believe that our forgiveness depends on the debt we're owed and our perpetrator's willingness to compensate for the pain he or she has caused. Scripture, however, teaches us about true forgiveness.

- Jesus died for our sins that we might know His forgiveness (Col. 1:13-14).
- God forgives our sins (Ps. 103:2-5; 1 Jn. 1:9).
- As far as the east is from the west, so far He has removed our sins from us (Ps. 103:12).
- Because we have been forgiven, we are able to forgive others (Mt. 18:21-35).
- We are to forgive those who have sinned against us (Mt. 6:9-15).
- We are to forgive others just as Jesus has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).
- We are to forgive people for repeated offenses (Mt. 18:21-22).
- Just as Jesus forgave the man on the cross, we forgive those who bring hurt to our lives (Lk. 23:32-43).

---

## Humility

### *Willing to be Known for Who We Really Are*

The Apostle Paul reflected on Jesus' earthly life, reminding us that though He was in "very nature God, [Jesus] did not consider equality with God something to be grasped." On the contrary, Jesus "made himself nothing" (Phil. 2:5-11). He assumed the appearance of man, never speaking up on His own behalf and never taking the privileges due Him. Though He was King, He chose to be born in a stable and to live the entirety of His earthly life without demanding the comforts of a palace, or gold, or fine linens.

- Jesus is our model of humility (Phil. 2:5-11; Mt. 11:28-30).
- Humility is what the Lord requires of us (Mic. 6:9).
- The Lord esteems the humble (Is. 66:2).
- God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble (Jam. 4:6).
- We are to be completely humble (Eph. 4:2-3; Col. 3:12).
- We are to humble ourselves. Because God values humility so much, if we refuse to humble ourselves, He will use other people and life circumstances to humble us (1 Pet. 5:5-6).
- We are to walk in humility before all people (Tit. 3:1-2).
- A little child gives us a picture of what humility should look like (Mt. 18:4).
- God raises the humble up at the right time (Jam. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:5-6).

---

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Fruits of a Humble Life

- The humble acknowledge when they are wrong and others are right. The humble are teachable and correctable.
- The humble actively promote others, even when they are like-gifted, because their humility provides them with a true security in who they are.
- The humble submit under God's delegated authorities.
- The humble exude a genuineness and honesty. They are approachable and appropriately vulnerable and transparent.
- The humble have become comfortable "going low" before God and man.
- Their willingness to be known for who they really are also includes areas of giftedness and strengths, therefore moving in humility lets them find their right place on the team in the kingdom, while also recognizing and making room so everybody else finds their place as well.
- Where humility is, unity follows. It is impossible to cultivate division where people eagerly humble themselves. Conversely, a lack of unity points to a lack of humility, and a lack of humility eventually destroys the bonds of unity.
- God manifests His presence to people and communities that are saturated in humility (2Chr. 7:14, 34:27).

---

### Brokenness

#### *Complete Yieldedness and Dependence Upon God*

God often uses people and life circumstances to bring us to the end of ourselves, leaving us completely yielded and dependent on Him. Like a wild stallion that must be broken to channel its beauty and strength into productivity and fruitfulness, so it is with disciples of Jesus with whom He intends to use for His glory.

- Jesus modeled brokenness in the Garden of Gethsemane when He yielded His will to do His Father's will (Mt.26:36-46; Lk.22:40-46).
- Jesus said that apart from Him we can do nothing (Jn.15:5).
- God requires a breaking of our wills and a dependence on Him so that we can participate in the objectives of His kingdom purposes.
- God does not despise the broken (Ps.51:17).
- God loves it when we depend on Him completely. He will orchestrate things in our lives, from His perfect love for us, to develop within us a brokenness and reliance on Him (see the story of Joseph in Gen. 37-50).
- When you recognize that God is taking you to a deeper place of brokenness, yield to Him. Take every opportunity to yield your will to His will and depend on Him to lead you.

---

---

*Let this be thy whole endeavor, this thy prayer, this thy desire — that thou mayest be stripped of all selfishness, and with entire simplicity follow Jesus only.*

*Thomas à Kempis, 1380-1471, German Mystic and Author*

---

## *Obedience*

### *Doing What Jesus Has Asked Me to Do*

#### **Obedience Modeled**

- Jesus was obedient to His Father, even to the point of death on the cross (Phil. 2:5-11).
- Jesus learned obedience, which means we can too (Heb. 5:7-10).
- The disciples were obedient to Jesus in the book of Acts. Below are a few examples.
  - Jesus told them to wait, so they did (Lk. 24:49/Acts 1:12-14).
  - He told them to preach the gospel, so they did (Mk. 16:15/Acts 2:14-41, 8:5-8).
  - He told them to lay hands on the sick, so they did (Mk. 16:17-20/Acts 3:1-10).

#### **Obedience Defined**

- As disciples, we must obey God above all else (Acts 5:29).
- Obedience is an expression of our love for God (Jn. 14:15,21,24).
- Our obedience to God demonstrates His Lordship in our lives (Gen. 22:1-14).
- Obedience brings blessing (Dt. 28:1-14).
- Disobedience has consequences (Dt. 28:15-68). Delayed obedience is disobedience. It is better to obey right away. As an example of this truth see the story of the prophet Jonah (Jonah 1-4).
- Disciples of Jesus walk in obedience to God's revealed truth in Scripture and to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their lives, as demonstrated throughout the book of Acts.
- The Holy Spirit will never lead us to do anything that is contrary to God's character or what is revealed in the Scriptures. We can recognize His leading because it will always agree with who God is and the truth of His Word (Acts 5:29).

---

## *Servanthood*

### *Laying My Life Down for Others*

#### **Servanthood Modeled**

- Jesus came as a servant (Mt. 20:28; Phil. 2:5-11).
- Jesus demonstrated servanthood by washing his disciples feet (Jn. 13:1-17).

#### **Servanthood Defined**

A servant relinquishes his rights so that he may better serve God and others (Phil. 2:5-7). The heart of a servant desires to be available to God for His purposes, which include serving others. A servant's attitude is one of open and upward palms, willing to allow the Lord to take from him, as well as to give to him (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

---

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CHAPTER 2 — A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

- Servants surrender their rights to their family.
  - Servants surrender their rights to marriage.
  - Servants surrender their rights to singleness when they marry.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their friends.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their freedom.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their finances and possessions.
  - Servants surrender their rights to popularity and reputation.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their time.
  - Servants surrender their rights to food, shelter, sleep and comfort.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their position, rank or place of importance.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their nationality or denomination.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their gifts and ministry.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their opinions and the right to be right.
  - Servants surrender their rights to their future.
- 
- Surrendering one's rights does not mean that one does not take responsibility for the people and things in their lives. The purpose of the servant relinquishing their rights is for the sake of being available to God to serve Him and others more effectively, not to become irresponsible.
  - Whatever rights we don't relinquish to God can subtly drive our lives, even to the point of mastering us (1 Cor. 6:12, 9:24-27).
  - Evidence of not relinquishing our rights may include reactions of anger, self-pity, or attempts to control.

### **Servants Walk in Humility – Phil. 2:8**

- Servants don't do things for man's applause or approval, but for their Father's in heaven.
- Servants don't seek to be noticed, but are willing to serve in the hidden places.
- Servants are willing to serve no matter how messy the job.
- Servants don't seek positions of leadership to exercise power over people, but rather to serve others.

### **Servants Walk in Obedience – Phil. 2:8**

- The evidence of a servant's love for their Master is obedience.
- Servants walk in a godly way, with a godly attitude, always under authority.
- Servants are obedient to God even when they don't fully understand what He is doing. They trust His character and ways.
- Servants are obedient to God even when it goes against what the world says to do.

---

*Just as a servant knows that he must first obey his master in all things,  
so the surrender to an implicit and unquestionable obedience must become  
the essential characteristic of our lives.*

*Andrew Murray, 1828-1917, South African Pastor, Missionary and Writer*

*I know the power obedience has of making things easy which seem impossible.*

*Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582, Reformer and Contemplative*

### **Servants Serve All People**

- Servants serve anyone God calls them to serve.
- Servants serve regardless of someone's background or nationality.
- Servants serve regardless of someone's looks, attitudes or actions.
- Servants serve regardless of how they "feel" about others or how others feel about them. Servants serve regardless of how others treat them.

### **Servants Die To Self And Live for God and Others**

- Servants die to self-will to do God's will.
- Servants die to self-pleasing in order to please God.
- Servants die to self-confidence (relying alone on one's self) to put their full trust in God.
- Servants die to their opinions to embrace God's ways.

### ***Dying to Self***

When you are forgotten, neglected or purposely set aside, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight, but you keep your heart right before God, glad to be counted as worthy to suffer for Jesus – *that is dying to self.*

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself – *that is dying to self.*

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, irregularity, unpunctuality or any annoyance, and when you stand face-to-face with waste, foolishness, extravagance and spiritual insensitivity, and endure it as Jesus did – *that is dying to self.*

When you are content with any food, clothing, climate, culture – and any interruption by the will of God – *that is dying to self.*

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or to record your own good works or itch after commendations; when you truly love to be unknown – *that is dying to self.*

When you can see someone else prosper and have their needs met and can honestly rejoice with them from your heart, and feel no envy, nor question God while your own needs are far greater – *that is dying to self.*

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

When you can receive rebuke and correction from one of less stature than yourself and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no places of rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart — *that is dying to self*.

Are you dead yet? In these days, the Holy Spirit desires to bring us to the cross that we might become more like Jesus (Phil. 3:10).

— *Anonymous*

---

### *Fear of the Lord*

#### ***Reverencing and Referencing God in All You Do***

God is love, and perfect love casts out fear (1 Jn. 4:18). This we know from Scripture. When we love perfectly, we trust, and our trust dispels the threats that fear brings. Have you ever wondered, then, what God means when He says that we should *fear* Him? To *fear the Lord* does not mean to be scared of Him, or to entertain doubts of a life that He sovereignly controls. Rather, it refers to a deep sense of awe and reverence, to an internal bowing of our spirit in recognition of who He really is.

#### **Promises to Those Who Fear the Lord**

The Scriptures state many promises for those who fear God. They include:

- Fruitfulness (Ex. 1:17-21)
- Keeping us from sin (Ex. 20:20)
- Blessings on us and our children (Dt. 5:29)
- Prolonged days (Pr. 9:10-11)
- Guidance (Ps. 25:12)
- The confiding of God (Ps. 25:14)
- Angelic protection/deliverance (Ps. 34:7)
- Provision for needs (Ps. 34:9)
- Wisdom (Ps. 111:10; Pr. 9:10)

**To fear the Lord does not mean to be scared of Him...  
Rather, it refers to a deep sense of awe  
and reverence, to an internal bowing of our spirit  
in recognition of who He really is.**

---

*It is only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of man.*

*John Witherspoon, 1723-1794, Preacher, President of Princeton University*

*Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do  
if it were the last hour of my life.*

*Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758, American Preacher and Theologian*

- Earned respect (Neh. 5:9)
- Blessing related to family life (Ps. 128)
- Companionship (Ps. 119:63)
- Wealth, honor and life (Pr. 22:4)
- Fulfilled desires (Ps. 145:19)
- Abundant goodness (Ps. 31:19)
- Preservation of life (Pr. 19:23)
- Honor for women (Pr. 31:30)
- A heritage (Ps. 61:5)
- Blessings from God (Ps. 112:1-10)

**The Fear of the Lord is taking God seriously**

- It is standing in deep respect and awe of who God is (Is. 40:12-31).
- It is the recognition that God is the Supreme Authority in the universe (Ps. 33:8-9).
- Moses encountered God and the ground became holy (Ex. 3:1-6).
- Isaiah saw a vision of heaven where God was holy and it caused him to become undone (Is. 6:1-8).
- Our obedience to God is directly related to how much we fear the Lord (Gen. 22:1-14).
- When we see God for who He really is, which moves us to take Him seriously, it becomes a ridiculous thought to disobey God.
- God wants to bring us to the place where *what He tells us to do* is not nearly as important as *Who tells us to do it*. The commands pale in the glory of a majestic Commander.

**The Fear of the Lord is the hatred of evil – Pr. 8:13, 16:6**

- God has absolutely no tolerance for sin (Gen. 6:6-7; Gen. 19-20; Lev. 19:2).
- The degree to which we fear the Lord is the same degree to which we hate sin.
- We are only as holy as our thought lives are holy (Ps. 19:14, 51:6; Phil. 4:8).
- We are to have the Fear of the Lord on our tongues (Ps. 34:11-14; Mt. 12:36; Jam. 3:1-12).
- We are to have the Fear of the Lord in the way we relate to others (Jam. 4:11-12).
- We are to walk in the Fear of the Lord in the way we relate to those in authority (Num. 12:9-10; 1Sam. 24:1-7; 2Ki. 2:23-24; Ps. 105:15).

**The Fear of the Lord Leads to Seeking God in Everything**

- Those who fear God reference Him in their daily lives, in everything they do (Ps.25:14).
- Those who fear God avoid the sin of presumption—they avoid doing things without referencing God (Ps.19:13).

# THOUGHTS & NOTES

---



---



---



---



---

# CHAPTER 2 — A CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

## The Fear of Man

To serve God, one must place no other gods before Him. Being concerned more for man's reactions than God's reactions indicates a greater respect for man than for God. Rather than a righteous Fear of God, this represents an unholy fear of man. The fear of man is present when we determine what we will or won't do based on anything other than God's truth and His leading in our lives.

- The fear of man brings a snare (Pr. 29:25).
- The fear of man leads to people pleasing.
- The fear of man hinders our obedience to Jesus.

## CASTING THE NET



Have you become Jesus' disciple yet? If not, consider the conditions and cost of discipleship, and then commit yourself now to becoming a sincere and wholly-devoted disciple of the Lord.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

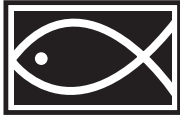
---

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

*Jim Elliot, 1927-1956,, American Missionary to Ecuador, Martyr*







# CATCH OF THE DAY

## *Chapter Summary*

- Scripture identifies the biblical conditions of being a disciple of Jesus, and tells us that it is important to consider, or count, the costs.
- Although each of us is unique, common biblical characteristics identify those who have chosen to live as a disciple of Jesus.
- We have been called to a cause as Jesus' disciples, with a purpose of bringing glory to God by knowing Him and making Him known to others.
- For one's spiritual health and development, and for his or her life to affect a broad and lasting impact, it is essential to walk in love, forgiveness, humility, brokenness, obedience, servanthood and the Fear of the Lord.

What are the two or three things the Holy Spirit spoke most clearly to you through this chapter, and how will you respond to Him?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## THOUGHTS & NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---