

DISCIPLE

DEFINING A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

Bridge City
CHURCH

9/8/2024

DISCIPLE

PART VI: AN UNCOMFORTABLE BUT NECESSARY CONVERSATION

Luke 9:23-25 (NLT). *Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 25 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"*

Characteristics or basic markers that should progressively characterize the life of every disciple of Jesus:

- Prayer
- Word
- Community
- Service
- Generosity
- Evangelism
- Rest
- Fasting
- Solitude

REMEMBER: God has grace for my growth, and at the same time has an expectation of my growth.

Hebrews 5:12-13 (NLT). *You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn't know how to do what is right.*

UNCOMFORTABLE BUT NECESSARY QUESTIONS:

1. ARE YOU [RUNNING]?

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT). *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.*

2. ARE YOU [TRAINING]?

Hebrews 12:11 (NLT). *No discipline [training, process] is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*

3. DO YOU HAVE A [PLAN]?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT). *Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.*

There is no growth by osmosis - you need an intentional plan.

Question: *What step of obedience would you take today if you were serious about your relationship with God?*



FRESH START

How do I begin my new life in Jesus?
www.bridgcitymd.com/freshstart

