

02/08/04 – “YOU WERE CREATED TO BECOME LIKE CHRIST – DISCIPLESHIP

A **discipleship** maker is to be a **disciple** himself - **Discipleship** is becoming like Christ

Isaiah 50:4 says, “...*He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.*”

We are to work out our salvation – Salvation is an occurrence that changes our life forever, but sanctification is a process of learning & growing

“...*work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you...*”–Philip.2:12-13

Our part is to **work out** our salvation – God’s part is to **work something in** to us...both to will & to work for His good pleasure

He gave you that boss, family, church, friend...God is at work to do something for our eternal good through our relationships

We should not be fooled to think God does it all & we don’t do anything – We have our part in discipleship

THREE TOOLS GOD USES TO MAKE US LIKE JESUS

1) Bible – Thy Word is Truth

A lamp unto our feet, a light unto our path – Thy Word is truth

Some of us hardly read our Bibles – If we want to be His disciples, we need to study & seek to understand & apply the Scriptures to our lives

“*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.*” 2 Tim. 2:15

2) Holy Spirit – The Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father – John 15:26

The Holy Spirit guides us to all truth, our Comforter, convicts us & reveals Christ in our lives – The Holy Spirit & the Word agree

3) Circumstances

You & I do not choose our circumstances, and yet there is a purpose behind every problem

God-ordained **trials** have purpose that bring us closer to God & serve to transform our lives in Christ

On the other hand, **temptations** are used by Satan to draw us away, accuse others & try to destroy our faith – Satan is a liar, thief & murderer

Troubles are difficulties that we have caused – We make bad choices & receive due consequences

Trials are from God – Temptations from Satan – Troubles result from bad choices

SCRIPTURE

The authority of God’s Word is absolute regardless of culture, tradition, reason, feelings or emotions

The principles of God are in the Word to show us the way – Word of God is a lamp & light

The Word of God dwelling in us richly is to help navigate the turbulent and difficult circumstances of life

We are not to be Biblically illiterate, nor live by subjective feelings rather than the truth of the Scriptures

His Word endures forever – The grass withers, the flower fades, but His Word endures forever – Living & active

“*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*” – Hebrews 4:12 – **God’s Word speaks to all the issues of life!**

THREE CHOICES THAT WILL HELP US BECOME LIKE JESUS

1) We can choose what we think about

“*Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.*” – Psalm 119:11

We can choose what choices we make, & how we will respond to a conflict & disappointment

2) We can choose to depend on the Holy Spirit

We can have a “meltdown”, try to control everything, **or depend on the Holy Spirit** – Trusting the work of the Spirit

At the end of his life Bill Bright was asked if there was anything he’d do differently & he responded, “Yes, I’d depend more on the Holy Spirit.”

3) We can control how we respond to circumstances

During World War II, Victor Frankel was in a Nazi concentration camp with terrible atrocities. The only thing they couldn’t control was his attitude and how he would respond to their evil & brutal behavior – He was free to make that choice

You can’t choose what is going to happen to you, but you are always free to choose how you will respond

“*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*” – James 1:2-4