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Obeying Christ... Making Disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples..”

Matthew 28:19

LEVEL ONE **ESTABLISH**

Transformed Relationship



God's Plan of Salvation and You

1

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A Ministry Resource Provided by
Transform Discipleship

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Obeying Christ - Making Disciples



Dear Follower of Christ,

As the great teacher of the Church, it is the purpose of the Holy Spirit for every born-again believer to grow spiritually, live victoriously and serve effectively. If you do not have the right foundation in God's Word, successful spiritual growth will not take place and you will find yourself floundering in the spiritual nursery of your Christian experience. Christian maturity does not happen automatically or overnight. It is a discipleship process of fully committing yourself to God's Word, the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to your local church.

For some time now, it has been the desire of our hearts to provide within your hands a series of sequential Biblical studies of foundational truths that will encourage your spiritual growth and give you a clear understanding of your purpose in God's kingdom.

The successful completion of your studies will involve four basic essentials:

Decision Discipline Diligence Determination

Therefore, do not allow people, circumstances, the devil, or your flesh to keep you from quality time in study each week.

Our personal advice to you:

1. Begin each study time with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and give you understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).
2. Don't rush! Take your time as you read the scripture portions of the study and meditate on the truths you are learning and memorize key verses marked with an (M).
3. Mark your Bible with verses and underlines and make personal notes as God speaks to you and gives you new insights.
4. Be a doer of the Word, not only a hearer. This is essential to practicing your faith and growing in your spiritual walk toward maturity - Becoming like Jesus!
5. Be committed to your local church, your discipleship class, your mentor, and serving the body of Christ.
6. Always make yourself available to your senior pastor to support his vision for reaching your community and holding him up in prayer.

God Bless you as you endeavor to walk in obedience to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

**Pastor John Ogden
& The Discipleship Coaching Ministry Team**

DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY OVERVIEW

ESTABLISH.....Transformed **Relationship**

New believers need guidance in *establishing* their **relationship** with God and with others. Living in communities of grace and biblical truth enables them to discover and define who they are and how they should live in order to honor God. The following 6 foundational studies will help you **establish** your relationship with God.

1. God's Plan of Salvation and You
2. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
3. God's Word Our Foundation for Victory
4. Understanding Communion and Water Baptism
5. Your Place in the Local Church
6. Your Prayer Life: Alone Time with God

ENGAGE.....Transformed **Character**

Becoming disciples of Jesus begins a lifelong transformation process and pursuit of Christlikeness. Believers, with the help of the Holy Spirit's presence and power will *engage* in spiritual disciplines that will profoundly effect their **character**, behavior, and decision-making process. The following 6 studies will help you **engage** in that process as you pursue God's best for your life.

1. Growing Spiritually
2. The Beatitudes
3. The Fruit of the Spirit
4. Christ-like Character
5. Christ-like Maturity
6. Christ-like Lifestyle

EQUIP.....Transformed **Service**

Transformation requires tools and support to help believers be *equipped* for **service** and find their place of ministry in the body of Christ. The following 6 studies will help provide you with some Biblical truths that will **equip** you as a servant/minister.

1. Love - The Spirit of Serving
2. Discerning the Will of God
3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit
4. Understanding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
5. Spiritual Warfare and The Armor of God
6. Every Believer a Minister

EMPOWER.....Transformed **Influence**

By the *power* of God's Holy Spirit, believers can experience spiritual transformation of their whole being resulting in healing, forgiveness, and freedom. Thus, increasing their **influence** among their family, friends, church, and community. The following 6 studies will help **empower** you as a minister, a person of influence and a leader in making disciples of Christ.

1. The Call of Disciple Making
2. The Authority of the Believer
3. Witnessing / Sharing Your Faith
4. Acts - Kingdom Power
5. Spiritual Leadership
6. The Supernatural Church



God's Plan of Salvation and You

Establishing Transformed Relationships

God's Plan to Save You!

The most familiar verse in all of the Bible:

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have **eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save** the world through him."* - **John 3:16-17**

This is one of the first verses in the Bible that a person must memorize.

What exactly is the message of this verse? Is it referring to the future or the present state of a person's life or both? Does eternal life begin now, or only when we die? What exactly takes place when we "believe"? Does something happen to us or in us? Does this verse mean we go to heaven and live forever, if we believe? Should our focus be life in heaven, futuristic or should it be our life now? What was God seeking to restore through the sacrificial death of His son on the cross?

Perhaps we can answer these questions by asking a question.

Q. What kind of relationship did Adam and Eve have prior to disobeying God (Romans 5:19)? The simple answer is this, they were in right relationship and enjoyed wonderful fellowship with their creator, God. But when they (sinned) disobeyed, their perfect relationship was destroyed. Since that time man's (gender neutral) rebellious sin continues to contaminate every part of life.

Read Genesis 2:9, 3:1-8, Romans 3:10-18

With that said, the verses above are communicating an offer of reconciliation, whereas God's ultimate plan is to restore his **relationship** with his creation.

See diagram and brief explanation starting on the next page

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Spiritual Truth # 1

God loves you and offers you a way back into right relationship with Him and has a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). **M**

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10). **M**

Why is it that many people are not experiencing that abundant life?

Because...

Spiritual Truth #2

**Man is sinful and separated from God.
Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.**

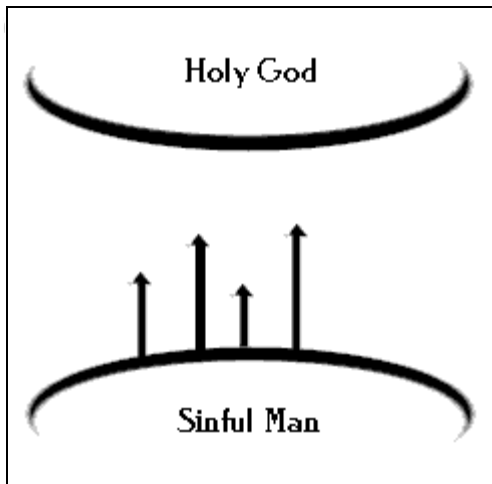
Man is Sinful

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). **M**

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his own stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

Man Is Separated

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23). **M**



The diagram to the left illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gap separates the two.

The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life (works), philosophy, or religion -but he inevitably fails.

There is only one way to bridge this gap...

Jesus said ... "I am the way..." John 14:6 **M**

Spiritual Truth #3

**Jesus Christ is God's only acceptable provision for man's sin.
Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.**

He Died In Your Place

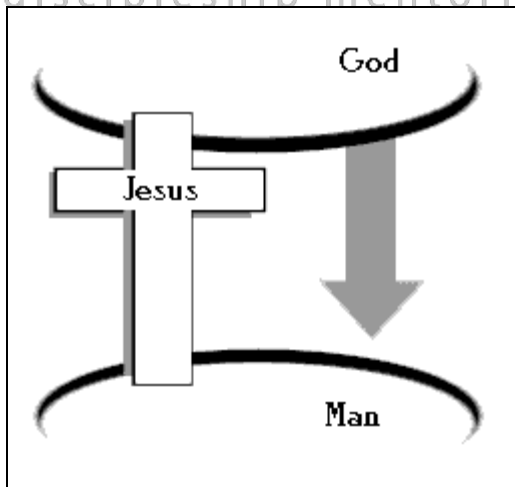
"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). M

He Rose from the Dead

"Christ died for our sins... He was buried... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures... He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (John 14:6). M



The diagram to the left illustrates that God has bridged the gap that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on a cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

But it's not enough to just know these 3 truths!

**We must individually
receive Jesus Christ as savior and
make Him Lord of our lives.**

Spiritual Truth #4

Then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

Who? Anyone and Everyone Can Receive Christ as Savior

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). M

How? We Must Receive Christ Through Faith

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as result of works that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9). M

Result? When We Receive Christ by Faith, We Experience a New Birth

(Read John 3:1-8.)

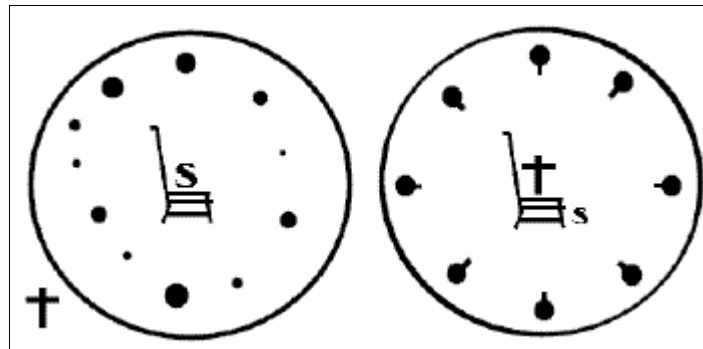
We Receive Christ Through Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20). M

Therefore, receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be.

Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by **faith**, as an act of the **will**. - See diagram below.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Self Directed Life

- S-Self is on the throne
- ☩-Christ is outside the life
- Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

Christ Directed Life

- ☩-Christ is in the life and on the throne
- S-Self is yielding to Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan
- Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

Which circle best represents your life?

Answer: _____

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

Answer: _____

Today I, _____ turned to God in repentance and in faith accepted His forgiveness for my sin. By His grace I will become all He desires for me. I will live my life for Him!

Date: _____ Sign: _____



God's Plan of Salvation And You

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Transformed Relationships

How God Pictures Unsaved People

These Bible verses give us a clear picture of the spiritual condition of man who has been infected by Adam's decision to disobey God. People that are outside of a right relationship with God are: **FALLEN, CORRUPT AND SINFUL.**

1. Read and check as you complete:

_____ Romans 3:10-18, 23 _____ Titus 3:3 _____ 2 Corinthians 6:14-17
_____ Ephesians 2:1-3, 11-13 _____ Ephesians 4:17-19

This is why we cannot save ourselves and why we need to be saved and born again.

2. Read the following scriptures and describe the effects of sin in man by choosing one of the words listed below.

darkens, dulls, deceives, deafens

Acts 28:27 - What did sin do to man's ears? _____

Ephesians 4:18 - What did sin do to man's understanding? _____

Romans 3:13-14 - What did sin do to man's tongue? _____

Jeremiah 17: 9 - What did sin do to man's heart? _____

1 Corinthians 2:14 - What did sin do to man's intellect? _____

3. Read more about the sin nature and meditate on the truth listed below.

- By nature all men are cursed with Adam's sin nature. **(Romans 5:12)**
- By nature all men are spiritually dead. **(Colossians 2:13)**
- By nature all men are children of the Devil. **(1 John 3:10)**
- By nature all men are children of disobedience. **(Ephesians 2:2)**
- Every unsaved person is living in the kingdom of darkness under Satan's power and influence. **(Colossians 1:13 & Acts 26:18)**
- The unbeliever is far from God and without hope. **(Ephesians 2:12-13)**

I am so glad that God has provided the remedy for the sin problem at the cross. At Calvary, Jesus cancelled the power of sin and made spiritual life available to spiritually dead men. Take a little time to thank God for saving you and allow this study to move you to prayer for some of your family members and/or friends that do not know Jesus as their Savior. **God Bless You and have a fantastic day!**



Lesson 1

God's Plan of Salvation And You

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Transformed Relationships

Escaping Sin's Penalty, Power and Presence

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have **eternal life**. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, **but to save the world** through him." - **John 3:16-17**

Understanding our Salvation is the most important issue in this life and certainly, in the life to come. If you or a person you know are *not* saved, all other pursuits and concerns cannot compare to the gravity of this issue.

What exactly are we being **saved** from? Salvation (accepting Christ as your Savior) delivers a person from the *penalty*, *power* and *presence* of sin (Revelations 21:8).

Here is a brief explanation:

1. We are saved from the **PENALTY** of sin:

Meaning - Our salvation from the **penalty** of sin was secured by Christ's sufferings on the cross, where He endured the punishment that was due us. (1 Peter 2:24)

2. We are saved from the **POWER** of sin:

Meaning - Our salvation from the **power** of sin is obtained by the gracious inner working of the Holy Spirit which Christ sends to His people—therefore is He designated "the Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9 and cf. Gal. 4:6, Rev. 3:1). This Holy Spirit within believers *enables* them to overcome sinful temptations.

3. We are saved from the **PRESENCE** of sin:

Meaning - Our salvation from the **presence** of sin will be accomplished at Christ's second coming: "for our citizenship is in Heaven, from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself" (Phil. 3:20, 21).

Only the gospel (Romans 1:5) can free a man, woman or child from these three elements of sin. This gospel enables the sinner to see himself as God sees him, condemned and under the wrath of God. Until an individual sees himself in this fashion, he has no reason to turn to God for forgiveness. Unless a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ (Who is God) to save him, he has no hope in this life or in the life to come (that is, in eternity). But what constitutes the essence of salvation? There are really only two basic types of teachings concerning salvation: the first is **man-centered** (earned through works) and the other is **God-centered** (granted solely on the unearned, undeserved and unmerited favor of God).

Take time to thank God for what He has done for you! **It is all Christ from beginning to end.**
Ask God to show you someone today that needs the message of God's Love.

How to know you are born again!

Several evident signs of the new birth

1. We have the evidence of a changed life.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

As a new Christian in Christ, we will experience the following changes:

- I. Change of lifestyle
- II. Change of friends and associations
- III. Change in our habits
- IV. Change in our speech
- V. Change in the places we go to

The new birth (being born again) produces a transformed life; the way we think, talk, live, and act will eventually change.

Question: What things have changed in your life since you became a Christian? What's new?

2. You will experience victory where before there was defeat.

Read Jude 1:24

In His name and in His merits, bad habits and practices may be overcome. It is impossible for man to overcome without God's strength, yet man is expected to exercise all the powers that God has given him so that he can be an overcomer.

3. You will have a turning of mind and heart from the world.

Read 1 John 2:15

A converted person will have a change of feelings, motives and actions. It is a taking leave of worldly connections. A separation from their controlling power, influences, opinions and unholy atmosphere.

4. You will experience a new love for others.

Read 1 John 3:14

When the heart is renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It will modify the character, govern the impulses, control the passions and affections. This love cherished in the soul will sweeten the life and shed a refining influence on all around. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate it or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. 'We love Him, because He first loved us.'

5. You will have an attitude of willing obedience to God.

Read Psalms 40:8

When we truly love God, our love to Him will be manifested by our obedience. It will be plain and distinct between those who love God and keep His commandments, and those who do not love Him and disregard His laws and precepts.

How to know you are born again! Part 2

Several evident signs of the new birth

6. You will have a desire to tell others about your Savior, Jesus **Read Acts 1:8 M**

When we are Christians, witnessing to others will be our delight. As soon as one is converted, there is born within him a desire to share and make known to others what a precious Friend he has found in Jesus. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be kept silent, he will have to tell others what Jesus has done for him.

7. You will have a growing sensitivity to sin **Read 1 John 3:9-10**

The closer we come to Jesus, the more closely we will see the purity of His character. Also, the closer we come to Him, the more we will see the terrible sinfulness of sin. The born again person will have new thoughts, feelings and motives. The mind will be changed and the conscience awakened.

8. You will have the inner witness of the Holy Spirit that you are a child of God.

Read Romans 8:16, 1 John 5:10

The inner witness is so important in the life of the believer. We need to renew our minds and realize that this is one of the chief ways He will lead and guide us... with an inner "green light" or an inner "red light." We need to develop our sensitivity and obedience to this form of divine guidance, comfort and communication. This is part of "listening" to the Lord and obeying Him. Often we will receive a witness about something from the Lord while minding our own business, but more often than not, it will happen while we are in prayer or communing with the Lord by reading His Word.

9. You will experience persecution for your Christian faith and service to God.

Read 1 Peter 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:18-20

Persecution is "part of the package" of our salvation! By no means is such a statement meant to imply that the salvation of our souls is earned or merited through suffering a certain amount of persecution. No, the Bible clearly teaches that salvation is a personal gift from God and persecution is not part of the price. The price of our salvation was fully paid by God Himself when our Lord Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins. But while persecution is not part of the purchasing price of our salvation, it certainly **is part of the "path of progress"** of our salvation. We do not "get saved" by suffering persecution, but when we are saved we will suffer persecution.

10. You will love the Lord Jesus Christ and look forward to His second coming.

Read Titus 2:11-14, 2 Timothy 4:8

"Christians have been looking for Jesus' Second Coming ever since He left the first time. We have always longed for the time when our Savior will come from heaven and make everything right once again on the earth. I hope you're looking for it because Paul says at the end of 2 Timothy that there is a crown awaiting all of those who are longing for His appearing. Are you longing for it? Do you get up in the morning thinking, This could be the day?" - Skip Heitzig

Understanding God's GRACE

Understanding God's grace is critical to the successful transformation process of your journey with Jesus Christ. I say this because, as stated in a previous lesson, **It is all Christ from beginning to end.**

Grace defined is simply "FAVOR, GIFT, or BENEFIT." The grace of God is what God gives to man as a gift. It cannot be earned, nor can it be repaid.

Remember this acrostic:

G - **G**od's
R - **R**iches
A - **A**t
C - **C**hrist's
E - **E**xpense

Grace is God's willingness to keep on blessing us even though we are not deserving of it. We deserve nothing, but He gives us everything. Starting with salvation.

If we could earn the blessings of God, they would no longer be gifts, but rewards.

Read 2 Peter 1:4-15

Here's a powerful verse! - "He (God) who did not spare His own Son (Jesus), but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also **freely give us all things?**"
- Romans 8:32

If we are under law (we try), we are not under grace (we don't trust). If we are under grace (we trust), we are not under law (we don't try).

Someone once encouraged me with this saying:

Stop **TRYING** and Start **TRUSTING!**

Here is the difference:

We are "under the law" *when we try to gain* the blessings of God by the performance of good works and the observing of ceremonies.

We are "under grace" *when we receive* the blessings of God by trusting in God's work for us (Jesus dying on the cross of Calvary) and not in our own works for God. We are blessed not by self attainment but because of Christ's atonement.

I want to encourage you to make this a priority; to understand the grace of God. It will save you years of frustration when it comes to working out your salvation. **Have a blessed day!**

Review Questions - Lesson 1

1. What is God's ultimate desire and plan regarding His creation? p.1

2. Why is it that many people are not experiencing that abundant life Jesus offers? p.2

3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "I am the way?" p.3

4. List the one difference's between the **SELF** and the **CHRIST** directed life? p.4

5. What did sin do to man's eyes? p.5

6. What is the difference between **Man** centered and **God** centered religion? p.6

7. What are we saved from? p.6

The penalty of sin meaning -

The power of sin meaning -

8. In order, name the 4 levels of this entire discipleship course.

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9. Explain what it means when we operate "under the law?" p.9

Remember: stop TRYING and start TRUSTING