

The Discippler

Christian Discipleship starts with Jesus Christ. *He* is the standard. For Jesus, discipleship was more than an activity, but an expression of His Being. Everything He did was related to who He was, and it is the same with us!

Discipleship begins with the Discippler, and rightly so. For when we pour our lives into another, we must ensure that it is a life worth duplicating. And it will be so only if it possesses the imprint of Christ! This begins with knowing who we are, for this knowledge will determine what we eventually do. Jesus was well aware of His identity as God's Son and that made His every decision clear.

The Discippler's Identity

- 21 Now when all the people were baptized,
Jesus was also baptized,
and while He was praying,
heaven was opened,
22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him
in bodily form like a dove,
and a voice came out of heaven,
"You are My beloved Son,
in You I am well-pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

- ✓ Circle who descended upon Jesus. (v 22)
- ✓ Underline how the Holy Spirit appeared. (v 22)
- ✓ Circle from where a voice was heard. (v 22)
- ✓ Circle who the voice identified Jesus to be. (v 22)
- ✓ Underline what the voice said of Jesus. (v 22)

How did knowing He was God's Son determine how Jesus lived His life? _____

At the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry, God declared Him as His "beloved Son" in Whom He was 'well pleased'. Unlike many who are in search of their 'identity', Jesus knew who He was. And that knowledge determined how He lived His life.

If we believe we are nothing but a chance creation by natural processes, then ultimately, it really doesn't matter how we live our lives. But if we are the creation of God who loves us with an everlasting love, then our lives intrinsically have purpose and significance, and wise is the person who lives in accordance with that knowledge. The discippler *is* such a person!

 John 1:26-34

► How does this passage support the truth of the Triune God: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Who We Are Determines What We Do!

It is essential to know that when we became a Christian, our identity was radically and eternally transformed. 'When we were yet sinners', controlled by the sin nature within us, we lived with the natural inclination to please ourselves. But when we were 'born again' as God's children, God's Spirit birthed in us a new nature resulting in the super natural desire to please God instead.

Just as Jesus knew who He was, Disciplers know who *they* are, and know that God loves and accepts them unconditionally as His own. As a result, their desire, like Jesus, is to fulfill God's will and to establish His perfect and righteous Kingdom in the hearts of people everywhere.

As a Child of the Almighty, affirm the following by reading it out loud and then signing it below as a symbol of your commitment to its truth.

My Identity

God created me in Christ Jesus
to Know Him intimately, Love Him supremely and Serve Him eternally.
I have been reborn by His Spirit, Who has placed in me a new nature
which finds its greatest joy in pleasing our Father in Heaven
and living in obedience to His perfect will.

God loves me and chose me by His grace to be His own,
and a part of His eternal Kingdom and Family.
He has forgiven me completely and shown me His mercy
that I might declare His Son, Jesus Christ, in a dark and sinful world,
and to call all who will into His glorious Light!

This is who I am!

Sign

The Discipler's Power

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit,
returned from the Jordan and
was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness"

Luke 4:1

- ✓ Underline how Jesus returned from the Jordan.
- ✓ Circle how He was led.

The primary qualification of a discipler is that they be 'full of the Holy Spirit'. Do not think yourself disqualified because you lack a Bible or Theology degree. Jesus did not have those either! Don't get me wrong. He was not ignorant of the Scripture. as He had already demonstrated in His youth, and will again in His encounter with the devil. He knew the Bible. But so did the devil! What stood Him apart from all else was not His possession of God's Word, but God's possession of Him!

He allowed God to fill Him with His Spirit 'without measure'. He wanted to be so possessed by God that every thought in His mind, every desire in His heart, every word from His mouth and every work of His body would be God's. He loved God with an unquenchable holy passion and He desired nothing less than to please Him in all that He did with His life. That's what happens when a person is 'full of the Holy Spirit'. And that's the kind of person God desires His disciplers to be!



John 3:34
Acts 10:38
Galatians 5:16-23

We must affirm that God is our Creator and that we belong to Him. There can be no compromise. One cannot be filled with God and with Sin at the same time. We must choose who will control our lives. But we cannot, and must not, waver. Such a person would end up being double minded. double dealing, living a double standard and completely unfit for God's service.

Many claim to be 'full of the Holy Spirit' only to be proven otherwise. It is easy to feel God's presence and power while on an emotional high at an inspirational church service, retreat or revival meeting. But the test is what we do when the feelings aren't there ... when we are not on the 'mountain top' ... but alone in the valley. How we handle *those* times determines whether we are 'full of the Holy Spirit' or simply inflated with emotions.

The Discippler's Leader

"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, ... was led around by the Spirit ..."

When you decide to disciple another, you are basically saying, 'Follow me'. You are stepping forward to show other's the way in which they should go. And so the question must be asked to the discipler, 'who's leading you?' Who are you following, for as Jesus wisely said, '...if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.'

One of the marks of a person who is 'full of the Holy Spirit' is that they are 'led' by the Spirit'. They are available to go wherever He leads, and willing to do whatever He asks. Wherever God directs, the discipler goes, and whatever God commands, he does. Everything in their lives has the indelible stamp of God on it.

The Scripture says that Jesus was 'led around by the Spirit'. He Himself affirmed that He did nothing except what He saw His Father doing, and said nothing except what His Father had told Him to say. His life was the visible expression of God's Will and the model for us all!

1. Are you available to go wherever God leads you? ___ Yes ___ No
2. Are you willing to do whatever God asks? ___ Yes ___ No

If you answered 'Yes' to both questions, it is God's Spirit is doing His will and work in your life. Live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit by continually being available to His direction and instruction, and follow them with all your mind, heart, soul and strength.

Only as you devote yourself to live in the fullness of God's Spirit will those you disciple devote themselves to do the same.

Luke 4:1 comes immediately after a recitation of Jesus' genealogy traced all the way back to the first man, Adam, and His baptism in the River Jordan by John. At His baptism, God the Father audibly affirmed Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus' genealogy affirmed His humanity as a son of Adam. Thus, He is presented to us as being wholly God and fully Man, and the ultimate example for us all.

"For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit (to His Son) *without measure*."
John 3:34

John 3:34 tells us to what extent Jesus was anointed with the Spirit of God!

You have probably heard the expression, 'If you really want to discover a person's true character, simply apply some pressure.' It is easy to hide behind a facade, pretending to be something we are not, but during trials and temptations, our real nature emerges.

Jesus' trials, while being tempted by the devil, showed His true nature and confirmed that He was indeed the Son of God!

The very nature of Discipleship, the multiplication of our lives through the lives of others, demands that *our* lives be worth duplicating. Because the goal is to reproduce the life of Christ in others, we must make it our priority to reproduce Jesus' life in ourselves first!

Christian Discipleship begins in the Discipled. You cannot reproduce in another's life what you do not possess yourself. Before you want another to be passionate for Christ, you must ask yourself, 'Am I?'

The Discipled

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*'A pupil is not above his teacher,
but everyone after he has been fully trained,
will be like his teacher.'*

Memorize 

Luke 6:40