

THE STRENGTH OF DISCIPLESHIP

- One of the major reasons why churches are not growing is taking the discipleship matters very lightly.
- We see discipleship as course to finish or a program to follow.

Obtains God's Favor

Genesis 18:19

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what He has promised."

1. The Task

- "...so that he will DIRECT his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord..."
- Abraham's Mission: "To make his children his followers as he follows God."

- The vision for multiplication works in a father and son relationship environment.
- Paul and Timothy, a mentor and mentee relationship environment.
- "If you don't disciple your children the world will disciple them 24/7."

2. The Favour

- "...so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."
- God's favour in 3 dimension:
 - Distinction
 - Protection
 - Provision

Prepares Us for Future Glory

- John 15:16
"You did not choose me, but I have chosen you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

- 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20
"But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you – certainly I, Paul, did, again and again – but Satan blocked our way."

- "For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our hope and joy."

- The passion and anxiousness of a disciplinarian – is to keep the disciples under his care.
- Satan is chasing after the disciples.
- Disciples are the crown of our glory and our joy.
- Disciples are a proof of Satan's defeat.
- Rev. 7:9-10

- "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Expresses Love for Jesus

- John 21:15-17
- When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes Lord, he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes Lord, you know I love you. Jesus Take care of my sheep."

- The third time He said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "do you love me? He said, Lord you know all things you know that I love you. Jesus said, Feed my sheep"

- It simply says that:
"If anyone loves the Lord he must have disciple/s under his care for Christ's interest."
■ In other words:
"If you love the Lord you are a disciple-keeper."

Gives Room for God to Do His Part

- 1Corinthian 3:6-9
- "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field..."

- Only God makes things grow.
- The seeds need to be sown properly, till its ground and water it.
- Although God's power is available to make seeds grow, it will not yield what is expected unless the farmer/worker have done their part.
- It is partnership with God.
- We are called God 's fellow workers.

Acts 2:46-47

"Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

- It is the Lord who adds people to the church.
- He only looks for proper environment.
- The church is like a hospital.

Saves and Protects Marriage

Ephesians 5:22,25

“Wives, submit yourself to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ love the church and gave himself for her.”

- Discipleship is submission and honoring Him, imitating His life and following His commandments.

- Paul understood that the key to establish marriage is submission (that is respect/honor) and love.
- Submission and love can only be learned or practiced if both the husband and the wife are following Christ.
- Christ commands: Love your enemy; forgive; do to others what you would have them to do to you...

- When Christ commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nation, He knows that discipleship is the answer to the problems of the nation.

Following Christ is my life.
It is my goal,
my vision,
my passion.
It is the only solution for
nation transformation
Amen!