

## **Discipleship...Check Up!**

Introduction:

**How are we doing in 2024....with resolutions, intentionality to areas, focus, etc?!**

- good practice to reflect, adjust, assess, set goals, run after things!

**So tonight, still at the beginning of this year, I thought it would be good idea to do a "discipleship check up"**

**Disciple** = someone who follows the teachings, life and aim of another until the person becomes like the one they are imitating (disciples of Jesus)

**Good news!! We are not left to ourselves to figure it out! We are not left to ourselves to hope for the best!**

1. Word of God (example of Jesus, teachings, prophecies, all of it!)
2. People of God
3. Spirit of God (Eph 2:5 "alive with Christ"; Rom. 8 - spirit of God lives in you)

**I WANT TO ASK EACH OF YOU TONIGHT....**

HOW ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY?

HOW ARE YOU DOING IN BECOMING MORE LIKE CHRIST?

HOW IS YOUR JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP/ YOUR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION GOING?

- should be making progress  
- should experiencing tangible fruit/actual examples of becoming like Jesus...attitudes, thoughts, motives, actions, time, money, relationships

**BE ENCOURAGED....GOD HAS MORE FOR YOU!**

No matter how new you are in your journey of discipleship or how old you are in your journey of discipleship; God has more, better, purpose, fulfillment, impact, contribution, fruits of the Spirit, virtues of Christ...

**ALWAYS MORE!!!**

(God works in the infinite....always more!)

Hebrews 10: 14 For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

Phil. 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Ephesians 3:14-20 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,

15 the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.

16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.

17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

18 And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

19 May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

It is with this understanding that we PIVOT to the practicals of the journey of discipleship and what that looks like practically!

Praxis is the greek/NT word for "deeds" or actions that characterize our life

Mt. 16:27 tells us that "Jesus is going to judge all people according to their deeds"

Our ULTIMATE DEED (different callings, destinies) is to imitate Jesus!!!

This is not be a burden but we should be empowered, confident, hope filled in this effort!! We can take a somewhat ordered and comprehensive strategy to this process! Discipleship should not be some aspirational, unattainable effort.

(letspraxis.com)

“When Jesus **invites** me to be His disciple, He expects me to obey His **commands**. I obey those commands by walking in spiritual **pathways**. And when I walk in those pathways I become a **virtuous person**...the ultimate measure for my progress as a disciple.” (p.16)

“If I accept one invitation, then I must obey six Commands. And to obey six Commands I must walk in twelve Pathways.” (p. 32)

**Pathways are the engines of our discipleship....doing our part and desperate for the work of grace = that transformative work that only happens because of the Holy Spirit in me!**

- made alive!
- creates this genuine desire to be more like Jesus

Pathways take us somewhere...spiritual disciplines (hard!)...habits, practices...these are the activities that create a spiritually vibrant atmosphere in my life for the virtues of Jesus to come alive in me!

Hand out Pathways Assessment....explain!

Red - is not part of your life

Yellow - happens sporadically, occasionally

Green - is a regular part of your life

Pick one red to move to yellow, one yellow to move to green....

Set action steps to make happen over the next 4-6 weeks, creating a new “deed”

### **Closing:**

It is my prayer, our prayer that each one of us will allow God to do His perfect work in us...so that we might experience the fullness of all that God promises on this side of eternity, the impact for His name, the contribution of being a part of what God is at work in doing not just in our own lives but what He is at work doing in the lives of our families, in our workplaces, neighborhoods, communities - wherever God has placed us!

## Pathways Assessment

**Scripture** is reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on the Bible  
*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.*  
 2 Timothy 3:16

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Worship** is outwardly expressing the joy that comes from knowing God  
*Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100:1-2*

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer** is regularly talking with God and interceding for ourselves and others  
*Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fasting** is sacrificing common things to focus on God  
*So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer.*  
 Ezra 8:23

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gathering** is engaging in community within the body of Christ  
*They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity. Acts 2:46*

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship** is being authentic with others to know and be known  
*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

**RED (NO)** \_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)** \_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reaching** is sharing the hope of Christ's love through evangelism and outreach  
*So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 2 Corinthians 5:20*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Accountability** is having someone that helps us reach our God-given potential  
*Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Rest** is honoring the Sabbath and practicing healthy life rhythms  
*So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. Hebrews 4:9-10*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Generosity** is having a heart to give freely and offer help to others  
*You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully. 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Stewardship** is being a good manager of all that God has entrusted to us  
*The earth is the LORD 's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. Psalm 24:1*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**Service** is meeting the needs of others with our gifts, talents and time  
*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10*

**RED (NO)**\_\_\_\_\_ **YELLOW (SOMETIMES)**\_\_\_\_\_ **GREEN (YES)**\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT PATHWAY DO I WANT TO MOVE FROM RED TO YELLOW?**

\_\_\_\_\_

List 3 practical action steps I can take to make this happen:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**WHAT PATHWAY DO I WANT TO MOVE FROM YELLOW TO GREEN?**

\_\_\_\_\_

List 3 practical action steps I can take to make this happen:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.