

Discipleship Part 1 (Mike Kaye, CE Elder)

What does the word *disciple* mean to you? Think on that a moment.

Does it apply to someone you know about? Someone you know? To **you**?

The word *disciple* is a translation of the Greek *mathetes*, which is one who binds himself to a teacher in order to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge; who learns by instruction, inquiry and observation. So, this is not just a casual or part-time student and follower; it is one who seeks to apply this lore to their life.

For a Christian, as a *student*, it means studying Scripture to learn as much as possible about God in His Triune nature and what He has done, is doing and will yet do. As a *follower*, it means striving to apply that learning to be ever more like Jesus and to follow His lead thru the Holy Spirit in our individual and community life-walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But a caution is needed here, for gaining great knowledge does not guarantee good results. It can be like an airplane with great speed, but headed in the wrong direction. So, just like planning a flight is important, there is an extremely critical preparation for being a true disciple of Christ. That is to regularly pray and open oneself to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Only the Spirit can guide us to use any knowledge to become more like Jesus. More like Jesus in His life walk (1 John 2:6); His obedience (Philippians 2:5-8); His service (John 13:4-17); His love (Ephesians 5:2); and His mission (John 20:21).

Jesus invited people then and now in many ways to become His disciples. He invited directly, as when He met Philip and said to him, "Follow me." (John 1:43) Another, more attention-getting example of a direct call was His encounter with Saul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6). His entire life during His first Advent invited us to follow in all the ways cited in the paragraph just above.

Jesus also invites today using ordinary people led by the Holy Spirit. A great example of that was Holly's wonderful testimony in the September Newsletter. If you haven't read it yet, consider that a homework assignment--go read it; share it!

Now go back, think again on what it means for you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Think of how you can learn more about and from Jesus and to follow Him better.