



5.3.20 The Grove's One Thing: Discipleship

A. The Priority of Discipleship (Discipleship – the privilege of every believer to purposefully exemplify in oneself and reproduce in another through the vehicle of an intimate Christian friendship, measurable spiritual progress.)

Discipleship is:

Learning	Following
teachability	responsibility
faith	repentance
humility	obedience
intimacy	imitation
Communion	commission
Coram Deo	Missio Dei

How would you describe discipleship?

Which aspects are vertical (between you and God) and which are horizontal (between you and others)?

B. The Weave of Discipleship (discipleship-gospel-glory)

1 Corinthians 9:23, 10:31, and 11:1 – In everything we do, our aim is to glorify God and imitate Christ for the sake of the gospel through discipleship.

Is there some part of this we can help you understand better? What do we mean by “the gospel?” Why is glorifying God our primary mission? What is one thing you can say about the relationship between discipleship, the glory of God, and the gospel?

Discipleship is the way that the gospel is folded into our lives. Discipleship maximizes the glory of the person, works and words of Jesus Christ – through the spread of the gospel and its power to change lives.

C. The Path of Discipleship

- 1) Grounded in the Gospel – Hebrews 6:19
- 2) Gathering with the Gospel – Sundays – Hebrews 10:23-25
- 3) Growing by the Gospel – Lifegroups – Col. 2:6, 7
- 4) Going for the Gospel – Serving – Matt. 28:19, 20

Glorifying through the Gospel (all of the above) – Col. 1:27- 29

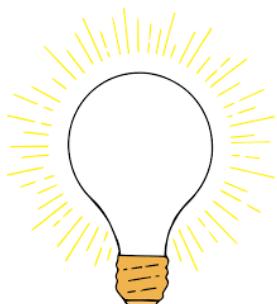
Which of these are you habitually doing right now? In which ones do you struggle?

Remember that Pastor Kurt says, "Progress, not perfection." These questions aren't intended to load you up with tasks or discouraging guilt. They're about finding ways to use the talents, time, and resources God gave us to live for Him more effectively – just as an athlete examines her training routine, her sleep schedule, and her diet to find ways to improve. The result is a closer relationship with the One who loves us most, working increasingly in the Holy Spirit's power, and dropping the "sin that so easily entangles" (Hebrews 12:1-3). Be encouraged!

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(Adapted – and possibly distorted – from things Pastor Kurt either said or had in his notes)

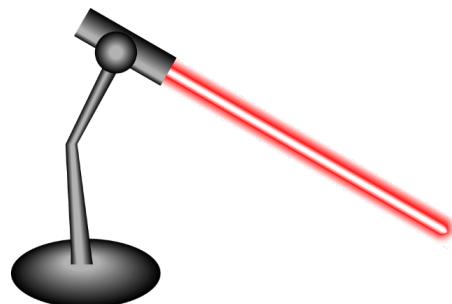


Warning: The light/laser thing below is where I got a little creative with the interpretation. I think Pastor Kurt was saying we can choose where to focus our energy and thus have a more powerful effect, like a cutting laser.



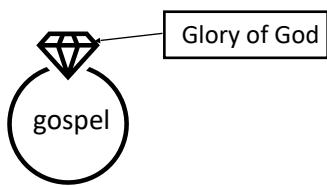
100 watt bulb

Maybe this is exemplifying spiritual progress in ourselves (shining our light before men)...



100 watt laser

...and this is reproducing spiritual progress in another? (The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged



Discipleship is wearing the ring.

Scripture Guide

Psalm 127

Proverbs 19:11

1 John 3:1-3

Prayer Guide

This week we have a special prayer from Kristen and Troy Mosley. Kristen is the Executive Director of a local women's care ministry that fights for the lives of unborn children and the spiritual lives of families contemplating abortion. Please join her in praying.

"God we thank you that you are the author and creator of life. Every life is created in your image and has purpose. Forgive us for not valuing each human life as you intended. We pray for those that have been impacted by abortion. That they would repent, and receive your forgiveness, healing, and redeeming love. Stir our hearts with greater passion to protect the unborn, the most vulnerable among us. We pray for women and men today who are considering abortion. That you would lead them to life-promoting people and resources and speak encouragement into their fearful hearts and allow them to experience your love and truth. We pray you would turn the hearts of the fathers of these unborn babies toward their child and the mother of the child and your plan for marriage and family will prevail. We pray for pastors and the body of Christ to boldly advocate for life and that our churches would be a safe, compassionate, and welcoming place to someone facing a crisis pregnancy. We pray for pregnancy centers all over the nation and we thank you for the life-saving work you accomplish in each one. We pray that men and women facing pregnancy decisions will be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families." (Kristen and Troy Mosley)

Pray for wisdom for the leaders of our country as they navigate the complexities of opening up the community and economy once again. Pray that they make wise decisions that echo biblical ethics. Pray for the salvation of those whom don't know Christ.

Pray for children

Pray for the sweet kiddos in our church. Pray for their salvation and that God would open their hearts to His truth. Pray that God would give them ears to hear the biblical truth that we consistently present in our homes. Pray that as we train them up in the way they should go they would not depart (Proverbs 22:6). Pray that they would be arrows in the quiver for gospel advance. (Psalm 127:4,5). Pray for the children in the world that God would protect them and draw many to Himself.