

## Conclusion

Initiative. Action. Responsibility. Repentance. Sacrifice. Humility. Change. Victory-defeat-victory. Pain. Fruitfulness. Unexplainable joy. *These* describe the life of a growing Christian.

Most of the New Testament is given to discipleship; far more than to evangelism and church-planting as such. That is because local evangelism and world mission are the natural fruit of those who truly follow Jesus. Our weakness there reflects our general weakness as His disciples. Trying to build a solid program of evangelism and world mission without authentic discipleship is like trying to get big juicy fruit from an immature or diseased tree.

I've heard it said that we spend so much time on discipleship that we don't get around to evangelism. However, if the "discipleship" we're talking about doesn't produce evangelism and missions, we need to change our approach to discipleship! Possibly we'll discover that what we are really trying to achieve is doctrinal correctness, denominationalism, or a religious culture.

It is also true that all disciples are to be servants of God; and all are to be about His business of making Himself known to the ends of the earth; but not all are evangelists. The call to discipleship will include the call to discover and take one's place in God's kingdom in the specific way that He intends for that individual. Some send, others go. The most spiritual thing a person can ever do, is to do whatever God sets before him at any given moment. We have a lot to learn about that and it's a crucial part of becoming more like Jesus.

It is important to remember that becoming more and more like Jesus is not just a matter of doing. It's first of all a matter of being; which produces the doing. Many people are caught in the emptiness and futility of trying to do the deeds of Jesus without the heart of Jesus.

It is in having the heart of Jesus that we enter into the communion with God that produces His work through us. We learn to see as He sees; hear as He hears; love as He loves; and respond as He responds. His work becomes our work.

If this study has led you to a deeper heart-walk with Jesus, we have succeeded. If it only makes you a nicer person but doesn't really bring you further under His lordship, we have not. I pray that it has!

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