

# DISCIPLESHIP

Belief, Posture, Action

## Objective

- Understand the role of discipleship as partnering with God in growing Christ-likeness in his children.
- Provide a framework for discipleship that is formed up by beliefs, posture and action.



## Beliefs that form up the foundation for Christian discipleship.

- Jesus established discipleship as the means for furthering the movement of His kingdom on the earth. Great Commission *Matthew 28*.
- Sanctification happens in two manners. On one hand it is immediate upon conversion with the Holy Spirit's indwelling and on the other hand conversion into Christ's likeness is incremental happening over time. This can be understood as spiritual formation.
- Spiritual formation happens out of the cooperation of both the Spirit and the person. Thus, we have a role to play in our spiritual formation. 2 *Peter 1, Phil 1:6*

## Posture: Mindset for Discipleship

- **Inner Formation:** Inner formation is not a Christian thing; it is a human thing. We're all being formed.
- **Definition:** Discipleship is the journey of learning to live your entire life in the Way of Jesus and helping others to do the same.
  - The goal of discipleship is transformation.
- **Patience:** Spiritual formation happens over time and requires practice.
- **Guidance:** Discipleship is aided by guidance. That is, there is a role people play in the spiritual formation of others. We as ministers have such a role.

## Action: Toolset for discipleship

### Guide a new way of living

- Help them envision.
- Help them slow down.
- Help them do different.
- Help them develop healthy pattern.
- Help them discover true pleasure.

## Discussion questions after the event.

• Readings from some church leaders on spiritual growth models. (here is an example)

<https://www.soulshpherd.org/bernard-of-clairvauxs-four-degrees-of-love/>

• What is your reaction to the articulation of spiritual formation and growth by these Christian authors? Does it match your experience? How so? How not? What questions does such an articulation raise in your mind? What benefit? What hindrance?

• A farmer knows the stages of maturity of a corn plant. A parent knows the stages of maturity of a child. A craftsman knows the stages of maturity of his/her apprentice. What are the stages of maturity in the Christian? Reflect on the list below. How might you engage with a person according to this maturity process?



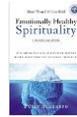
## Follow Up Training

ACCFS discipleship training course (Spring of 2023)

## Resources

### **The Spirit of the Disciplines** – Dallas Willard

This book presents a way of living that enables ordinary men and women to enjoy the fruit of the Christian life. He reveals how the key to self-transformation resides in the practice of the spiritual disciplines, and how their practice affirms human life to the fullest. *The Spirit of the Disciplines* is for everyone who strives to be a disciple of Jesus in thought and action as well as intention.



### **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality** – Peter Scazzero

This book is a guide to biblical integration of emotional health and the spiritual practice of slowing down and quieting your life to experience a firsthand relationship with Jesus. It created nothing short of a spiritual revolution in Scazzero, in his church, and now in thousands of other churches.

### **The Life You've Always Wanted** – John Ortberg

John Ortberg calls readers back to the dynamic heartbeat of Christianity--God's power to bring change and growth--and reveals how and why transformation takes place.

