

**COST OF
DISCIPLESHIP**
Lesson 1 Slide 1

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Disciples of Jesus pattern their lives after the lifestyle and teaching of Jesus.

This is what ought to make His church, the body of Christ, different from the rest of the world.

The changed lifestyle of the believer ought to be a testimony to the world and a glory to God.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

**Our New Relationship with God
changes our view of life.**

The most important change
takes place **when**
a believer surrenders
His/her life to Jesus as Lord
and is Buried with
Christ In Baptism.



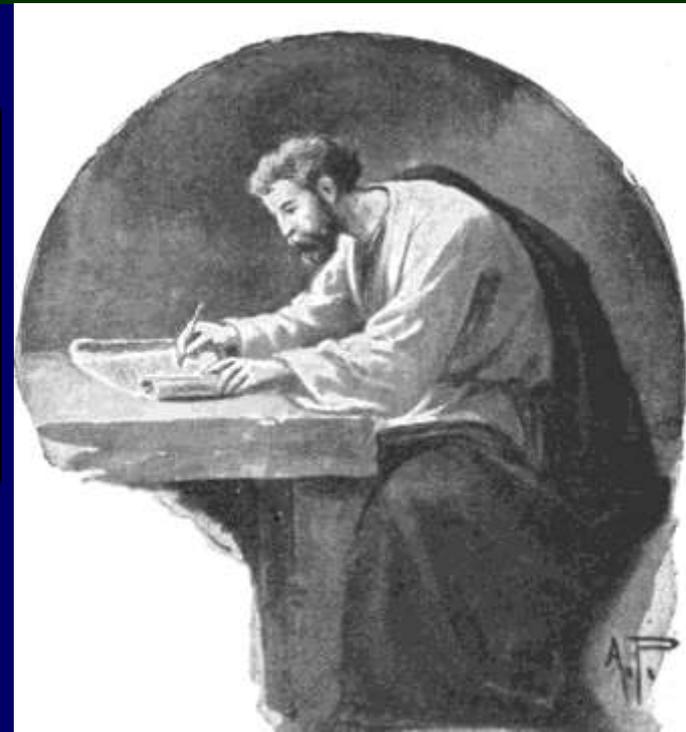
Our relationship with God is brand new
although many lifestyle changes need to follow.
These changes will continue
as we grow and mature as a Christian.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the saints in Rome, describing how **their relationship with God had been established by their faith in Christ Jesus.**

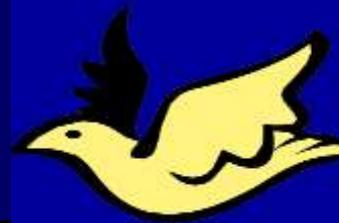
Paul discussed a new attitude of peace, joy, and hope that was available to these Christians and to Christians today.

Paul also points out how we can look at hardships and suffering in a totally different way than before we knew Him.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through **faith**, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom** we have gained **access by faith** into this **grace** in which we now stand. And **we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.**”



“Not only so, but we also **rejoice in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering** produces **perseverance**; perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**. And **hope does not disappoint us**, because **God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit**, whom He has given us.”

Rom 5:1-5;

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We Are “Justified Through Faith.”

Justified Is A Legal Term That Means
“Brought Back”, “Made Right.”

Some Have Defined It As (Just If I'd) Never Sinned.

When we **put our trust in Jesus** as our only **atonement for sin**, We are brought back together with God and made right from **His** perspective.

All sin is “**washed away by the blood of Jesus**, and God remembers them no more.” (Hebrews 10:17;)

Therefore, our past is different from what it once was.

It is forgiven and forgotten.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Our present life is also different due to our new relationship with Him.

A peace within comes from God that allows us to view life from a new perspective.

It may be compared to putting on a pair of coloured glasses that changes the way we see everything.

It even changes the way we think about our possessions.



If we belong to Him, everything we own belongs to Him. Everything we have can be seen as a gift from Him. (James 1:17;),

How we use these gifts can glorify Him.

He has blessed us with them so we can be a blessing to others. (Gen 12:2;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

God wants us to also look at problems in a different way than we did before.

The difficulties don't go away, but we are able to look at them in a new light.

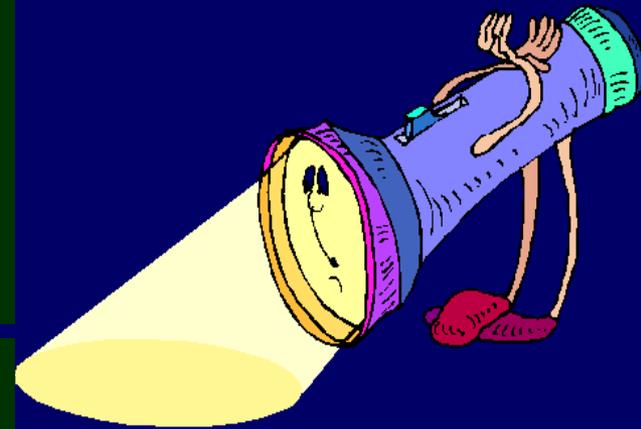
Now they can be seen as **challenges that help us grow as we learn to overcome them.** (James 1:2-4;) Furthermore, He provides us with the strength to overcome them.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We are able to look at our troubles as being only **temporary** while **we are on our way** to **our eternal home**. (2 Cor 4:17;)

Our suffering here is seen as bearable compared to the reward that will be ours in heaven.
(Romans 8:18;)



**Even when we are
persecuted for our faith.
We should not be surprised.**

Jesus said this would happen, and He told His followers to rejoice when it does. (Matthew 5:11-12;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

**We ought to have a changed view of others!
Our relationship with other people can be different
than before, if we allow Christ's love to control us.**



**His love should influence
all other relationships.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live **should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.”**

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Cor 5:14-17;

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

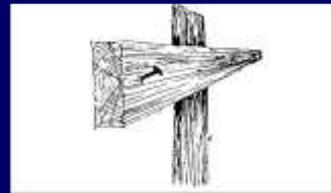
We are to be a cross carrying disciple. Luke 14:27;

“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

It is only the passage of time that has made the cross acceptable in our society. Many unashamedly display it in their church buildings, their homes And in public places. We even wear it.

It is respectable, inoffensive.

But it was not always seen in such a favourable light. Placing the cross in its historical context, we see that it was a cruel instrument of execution. And it was to this that Jesus referred in teaching about the cost of being his disciple.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Common Misunderstandings

It is not uncommon to hear people speak about the cross the Lord has given them to bear some burden they have to carry in their lives.

A strained relationship as they endure an unhappy marriage, or tolerate a delinquent child, a thankless job.

They may struggle with poor health or worry over a financial crisis.

With almost self-pitying pride, they say, “That’s my cross I have to carry.”

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While sympathy must be given to those for whom life is difficult, **this is not the cross Jesus was referring to in His teaching on discipleship.**

When Jesus carried His cross up Golgotha to be crucified, no one was thinking of the cross as symbolic of a burden to carry.

To a person in the first-century, the cross meant one thing and one thing only: **death by the most painful and humiliating means human beings could develop.**

Because the Romans **forced convicted criminals to carry their own crosses** to the place of crucifixion, **bearing a cross meant** carrying their own execution device while facing ridicule along the way to death.

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Therefore, **“Take up your cross and follow Me”** means being **willing to die** in order to follow Jesus.

This is called “dying to self.”

It’s a call to absolute surrender.

After each time Jesus commanded cross bearing, He said, **“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?”**

(Luke 9:24-25;)

Although the call is tough, the reward is matchless.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Wherever Jesus went, He drew crowds. Although these multitudes **often followed Him as Messiah**, their view of who the Messiah really was and what He would do, was distorted.

They thought the Christ would usher in the restored kingdom.

They believed He would free them from the oppressive rule of their Roman occupiers.

When Jesus began teaching that He was going to die at the hands of the Jewish leaders and their Gentile overlords. (Luke 9:22;) **His popularity sank.**

Many of the shocked followers **rejected Him**. Truly, **they were not able to put to death their own ideas, plans, and desires**, and exchange them for His.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our **true commitment** to Him **is revealed during trials.**

Jesus assured us that **trials will come** to His followers. (John 16:33;) **Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never hid that cost.**

In Luke 9:57-62; three people seemed willing to follow Jesus. When Jesus questioned them further, their commitment was half-hearted at best.

57 "As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, **"I will follow You wherever You go."**

58. And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

59 "He said to another, **"Follow Me."** But he said, **"Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."**

60. But He said to him, **"Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."**

61 "Another also said, **"I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home."**

62. But Jesus said to him, **"No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."**

They failed to **count the cost** of following Him.

None was willing to take up their cross and crucify upon it their own interests.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Therefore, Jesus appeared to dissuade them. **How different from the typical Gospel presentation!**

The popular God channel programmes with their
“come to Jesus and **you will never get sick again.**”
Or “Come to Jesus and **he will guarantee you wealth.**”

This is not the message we hear from the lips of Jesus.

For Jesus it meant going to a cross to die because He loved us so much He could do nothing else.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Cross bearing is **not an accident** that happens to us, or something unavoidable that we must face.

Cross bearing is an act of love that we choose to do.
It is a task that we undertake,
a price that we pay, out of love for Him.

It means **reaching out to people who are unlovable & unlovely & who may never return the love.** And yet **we are to keep on loving because that's what Jesus did.**

If we want to read a description of what it means to carry a cross? Let us look at 1 Corinthians 13; If we begin reading in vs 4, and replace the word **"love"** with **"cross bearer."**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

"A **cross bearer** is patient. A **cross bearer** is kind.
A **cross bearer** does not envy. A **cross bearer** does
not boast. A **cross bearer** is not arrogant or rude.
A **cross bearer** is not self seeking.

“A **cross bearer** is not easily angered,
nor keeps records of wrongs.
He **does not** delight in evil,
but rejoices with the truth.

A **cross bearer** **always** protects, **always** trusts,
always hopes, **always** perseveres.”

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

This is what **cross bearing** means.

It means taking the **love of God** to the very ends of the world. To **touch the lives** of people who are unlovable. It means **denying & sacrificing**.

It means paying the price regardless

Jesus offer us a cross. Not a life of ease, or a congregation that is perfect with all the solutions to our problems.

Being a disciple of Jesus can't guarantee you success in your job. It does not promise that **your marriage won't fail**.

Does not promise that we will **stop having problems at home**.

All that really is on offer is **Jesus Christ & His cross** and **through His shed blood**, comes the opportunity of eternal life.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

"taking up our cross" is voluntary.

**Jesus calls us, & challenges us,
but it is our decision.**

Often our lives are filled with running around frantically piecing together our lives, trying to build homes & stockpile possessions. But one day, poof, it's all going to be gone.

It's going to burn up, disappear & count for nothing.

And the only thing that's going to last
is the cross that we have carried for Jesus.

Discipleship is on God's terms, just as coming to Him is on His terms. Jesus reminds us that the **key** discipleship principle of **winning by losing** involves **self-denial, cross-bearing, and loyal obedience.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Deny is from **aparneomai**, which means to **completely disown**, to **utterly separate** oneself from someone.

It is the word Jesus used to describe Peter's denial of Jesus while He was being questioned by the high priest. Matt. 26:34;

Each time he was confronted about his relationship to Jesus, Peter more vehemently denied knowing Him (vv. 70, 72, 74;)
He disowned His Master before the fire.

That is exactly the kind of denial a believer is to make in regard to himself. He is to **utterly disown** himself, to refuse to acknowledge **the self of the old man.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The self of which Jesus is speaking is the **sinful, rebellious self.**

It is the **fleshly body**, the “**old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit.”

(Eph 4:22;)

It is to recognise that we cannot overcome sin by ourselves we need Jesus, we need the Holy Spirit to enable us and encourage us and empower us.

Jesus proclaimed that the first requirement for entering the kingdom is to be “**poor in spirit**” (Matt 5:3;)

To recognise we have reached rock bottom and have nowhere else to go but to Jesus.

It is only when we realise how poor we are in our own abilities that we will ever come to know the riches of Christ.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

It is only the person who realizes how sinful they are who will ever come to know how precious the forgiveness of God is.

**If we do not think we have a problem
we will not see the need and the beauty of a solution.**

“The Lord is near to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit” (Ps. 34:18;)
It is the broken and contrite heart that God loves and will never despise (Ps. 51:17;)

**It is not the self-righteous and self-satisfied
but the repentant and humble whom God saves.**

It was not the proud Pharisee who had such a high image of himself, but the broken hearted tax collector who asked God for mercy, who **Jesus said “went down to his house justified.”**
(Luke 18:14;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

On a practical level, **how do we go about carrying our cross** and thereby following Jesus?

A scenario:-

You are happily married, blessed with a lovely wife and family. You have a job that brings fulfillment.

Life is going well for you. Your recent conversion to the Lord has brought blessings in abundance and you wonder how you could ever have lived without Jesus in your life.

Then one day, quite by accident, you meet a former girlfriend you have not seen for over ten years. She looks great! And I mean grrrreat!



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

‘You haven't changed,’ she says, ‘you are just the same as when we were last together.’ (She is too polite to comment upon those extra pounds that have gathered around your once pencil-thin waist).

The trip down memory lane continues over lunch, recalling old friends and events.

**Turning the clock back has been fun.
No doubt about it, they were good days.
But the past cannot be recalled without reference
to how you once felt about each other.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

It was real love. 'I continued loving you even after we broke up,' she says. 'In fact, our meeting only confirms how much I still love you.'

Her dreamy blue eyes are moist and she says, 'You know the flame never went out. It still burns for you.'

Flattered and inwardly pleased with this boost to your ego, you are reluctant to bring the conversation to a close. You've been flirting and now you are drifting into dangerous waters.

She extends an invitation to visit her apartment 'anytime.' What is a boy to do?

How are you to handle it?

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Let's face facts: the temptation to be immoral is very, very strong. **Satan is working overtime**, filling your mind with an assortment of reasons why you should accept her invitation. **You rationalize**, but know **you are deceiving yourself**.

Even the idea of going back to her place and sharing the news of your recent conversion with her rings hollow. **She is not interested in having Jesus in her heart. You know that!**

What she wants is you - the husband of another woman! And what you are being tempted with is a sexual encounter with a woman you have no right to have! **A civil war is now raging within**. Part of you is saying, **No! Never!** I cannot do this! And part of you is **screaming, Yes!**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Resistance Requires that a Death Must Occur.
There is only one way to conquer this situation,
you must crucify the sexual passions
and desires that are seeking gratification
outside the parameters of God's will.

If resisting such temptation were easy,
Jesus would never have spoken
of having to put to death, on a daily basis,
the sinful desires we sometimes have.

He would never have spoken of having to carry
our cross. **Resisting this sexual invitation involves
us in a major battle and the enemy is within.**

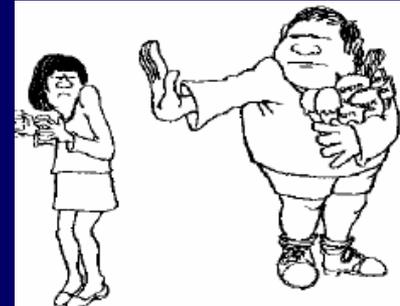
THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

**'Resist the devil,' the Bible says,
'and he will flee from you' (James 4:7;)**

**This scripture is filled with a divine guarantee.
There is nothing passive about resistance.**

**On the contrary, the word 'resist'
brings to mind a fight, a struggle,
an act of self-defence against an adversary.**

**You must resist. You must crucify.
You must, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
put to death the evil that wants to express itself.**



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

**“You must draw near to God and
He will draw near to you.” (James 4:7;)**

**The invitation from your former girlfriend
(and any other temptation to sin for that matter)
can be declined and your marriage vow honoured
by making it a daily practice to carry your cross.**

**This is living the crucified life. Don't live life without
it. This is the type of discipleship Jesus taught.
A Life of Self Denial.**

**If anyone would come after me, he must deny
himself and take up his cross and follow me.**

**And anyone who does not carry his cross
and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

(Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:27;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Following Jesus involves both self-denial and crucifixion. Jesus could not have made this plainer. He calls for wholehearted devotion to Him for life.

Self-denial brings medieval images to mind:-
Mortification of the flesh, hard beds, hair shirts, cold showers, draughty monasteries, celibacy, the absence of fun and creature comforts. **Spartan!**

Yet self-denial is none of these.

Neither is it having low self-esteem, always running yourself down, never rejoicing in the good you accomplish or never laughing. **We can say that self-denial is saying no to what WE want to do and saying YES to the will of God.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Here are a few example to help amplify the point.

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane and prayed. Ahead of Him lay his arrest, trial and execution.

He prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. **Yet not as I will, but as you will.'**

Praying a second time He said, 'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, **may your will be done.'** (Matthew 26:39,42;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The spirit of self-denial is heard in His words,
'not as I will, but as you will.'

Jesus came from heaven to earth, not to do His will
but the will of the Father.

Through His death He was showing us
the real meaning of self-denial.

Another example of self-denial is displayed by Mary.
Informed that she would give birth to the saviour
of the world she responded, 'I am the Lord's servant,
may it be to me as you have said.' (Luke 1:38;)

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In these words, Mary echoes the sentiments of the Lord's prayer, '**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**' She would become pregnant, not through sexual intercourse, but through the intervention of the Spirit.

This had never occurred before, so there was no one she could consult who had undergone a similar experience.

No support group existed for virgins who conceived miraculously.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

And how would she explain her pregnancy to Joseph, the man to whom she was engaged?

These were real concerns, nevertheless she chose to do the will of God. **That's self-denial.**

Among those who worked alongside the Apostle Paul was an outstanding disciple named Timothy.

Self denial was a way of life with him and Paul paid a glowing tribute to his tireless efforts for the Lord Jesus Christ.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

He wrote to the congregation in Philippi:-

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare.

For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. (Philippians 2:19-22;)

Timothy's life of self-denial is captured in the words, 'I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.'

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Unlike some who looked out only for their own interests:-

what's in it for me? how much will this cost me?

let someone else do it. Timothy was driven by only one ambition! **To do the will of Christ irrespective of the cost to himself.**

That's self-denial. The doing of the will of God, rendering obedience to God. **Saying yes to God is what self-denial is all about.** And when the temptation to sin comes our way, and it will, **we must practice self-denial.**

Offer Your Bodies As Living Sacrifices!

Therefore I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The teaching method of the Apostle Paul was to make a presentation of doctrine followed by a practical application to our daily lives.

In the first eleven chapters of his letter to the Romans, he expounded upon the great doctrine of God's mercy. **He now moves on to show its ethical implications for our lives.**

Paul begins, not with an idea or a suggestion or a request, but with a heartfelt plea to the Jewish and Gentile believers:-
"Therefore, I urge you." The word **"therefore"** brings us back to what he has taught already.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Paul's extensive treatment of **God's great mercy** to sinners **who deserved nothing but condemnation**, but have, by God's mercy, become his adopted sons and daughters. And he urges the recipients of divine mercy to **"offer your bodies as living sacrifices."**

This is not the first time Paul has spoken on this subject. Having shown that God's merciful treatment of sinners is not a license to continue sinning but that, on the contrary, conversion to Christ makes sinning ethically unacceptable.

He says, "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness." (Romans 6:13;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Paul uses liturgical language when he says we are to offer sacrifices that are:-

(1) living, (2) holy and (3) pleasing to God.

Throughout the Old Testament, the priests offered dead animal sacrifices to God, **whereas we offer living, holy sacrifices with our bodies:- our hands, our ears, our feet, our tongue, etc.**

For example, the Christian mother who cares for her children, bathing them, washing their clothes, tidying up after them, playing with them, reading to them, is doing holy work; She is offering sacrifices that are holy unto God.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

God is pleased. Even our moments of relaxation can be times of worship. To restrict worship to an activity that only happens on a Sunday is to miss the point Paul is making in Romans 12:1;

Peter reminds the saints of (1) who they are and (2) what is expected of them. "You also, like **living stones**, are being built into **a spiritual house** to be **a holy priesthood**, offering **spiritual sacrifices** acceptable to God **through Jesus Christ.**"
(1 Peter 2:5;)

Every Christian is a priest whose body is the temple of God. (1 Corinthians 6:19;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Wherever there is a Christian, there is a priest who can offer spiritual sacrifices in the temple of God. Therefore, every day we need to be aware that through our body - hands, feet, eyes, etc.

We are offering to God living and holy sacrifices.

And our motivation is the realisation that we are the recipients of God's great mercy.

Transformed by Renewing Your Mind.

We can never escape the evil influences that pervade our world.

Even after our conversion to Christ, we are confronted by the pressure to conform.

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Some popular television programmes openly advocate immorality as being perfectly acceptable.

Powerful advertising intimidates us into believing that we must be successful, be beautiful and confident. We are judged to be intolerant and judgemental when we take a stand on God's word, and none of us wants to be considered intolerant or narrow-minded.

So the pressure to conform is ever-present. Yet embracing the world's agenda is not an option for a Christian.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

God said to Israel as they headed toward the promised land:- **"You must not do as they do in the land of Canaan. Do not follow their practices. You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees."** (Leviticus 18:3-5;)

Transformed From the Inside Out!

Following on from his extensive teaching on God's merciful dealing with sinners, Paul gives the following instructions:-

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."

(Romans 12:2;)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The word "transformed" comes from a Greek word that describes the process of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly, an extraordinary and beautiful transformation.

And that is exactly what God does with us.

He changes us from the inside out, making us into the image of Jesus. **As we co-operate with Him.**

He changes how we think and behave.

It is a divine process that occurs by the **power of the Holy Spirit** as **God's word LIVES** in our hearts.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," is Paul's instruction to the church in Colosse.
(Colossians 3:15;)



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And Jesus tells his disciples of the extraordinary life they will live "If you remain in me and my words remain in you." (John 15:7;)

God's **transforming work** continues as we imitate the person described by the psalmist:-
"His delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night." (Psalms 1:2;)

"I will meditate on all your works and consider all your mighty deeds."
(Psalm 77:12;)

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"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long." (Psalm 119:97;)

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11;)

When our heart is filled with the word of God and our mind meditates on His will, our whole life undergoes a radical change. **Because we are thinking differently, we ought to behave differently.** We are continually developing a whole new outlook on life, an outlook that is informed by God's will.

This **transformation is the antidote** to resisting the pressure of the world that would have us conform to its agenda. Through being transformed by the renewing of our mind, we are able to know **"God's will" – His good, pleasing and perfect will."**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

J.B. Phillips captures the meaning of Paul's words in his paraphrase of Romans 12:2:

"Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould, but let God remould your minds from within."

Unless You Hate Your Father & Mother!

Large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple.' (Luke 14:25-26;)

'Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' (**Matthew 10:34-36;**)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

These seem really harsh sayings of Jesus but they need to be contrasted with what Jesus wants to achieve in our life.

If and when we become Christians we can be half hearted church pew fillers or we can allow Jesus to change and transform our thinking and our life.

The end result ought to be that we become **better sons and daughters better brothers and sisters because of our love and commitment to Jesus.**

Jesus will challenge us to be **More LOVING, More FORGIVING**
More COMPASSIONATE, More CARING. More KIND
Less SELFISH, Less SELF CENTRED, Less EGO-CENTRED

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE!

Matt 20:28; “the Son of Man came **not to be served but to serve others** and **to give His life** as a ransom for many.”

Often the trouble we get ourselves into is motivated by:-
**What is in it for me, Doing what I want,
Getting MY way.**

When **we dwell on OUR problems** they just get so big that **they often block out all other solutions.**

When **we lose ourselves** in the service of others our problems begin to be seen **in the wider perspective** of things.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

I am Homeless!

I could be in Syria Homeless and being bombed on,
no access to water or food of any kind.

No body loves me!

I could be in Syria and have just watched my parents
and brothers and sisters blown to bits,
and have nobody left to love me.

I have a bad headache!

I could be in Syria and be in a hospital bed
with my legs blown off.

I am not saying that our problems are not real,
but **they need to be seen in the wider perspective** of things.

And when we are able to see the bigger picture

**Then we can begin to deal with the pain of what
we are going through and the challenges it brings.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Jesus stated this concept in a very powerful way!

“Dear friends, don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; **they cannot do any more to you after that.**” Luke 12:4;

If we are **willing to put God first and listen to Him.**
If are **willing to lose ourselves in the service to others,** then we will begin to put our lives into a proper perspective.

From that greater perspective we will begin to make sense of our lives and the lives of those around us.

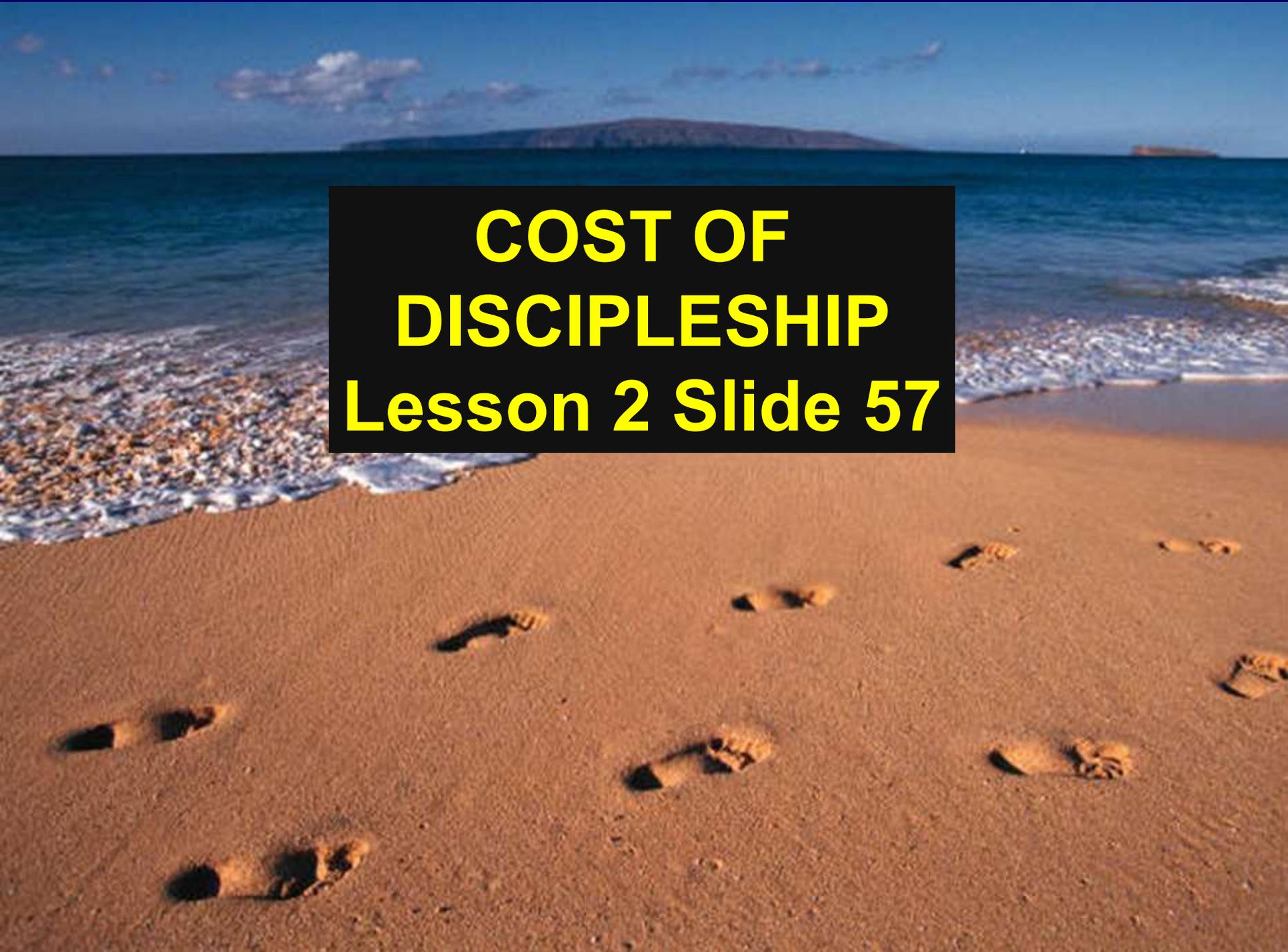
**COST OF
DISCIPLESHIP
Lesson 1 Slide 1**

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**Next in the series:-
COST OF DISCIPLESHIP Lesson 2 Slide 57**



**COST OF
DISCIPLESHIP**
Lesson 2 Slide 57

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

EXAMPLE:- Story of Tony Coffey.

“I was twenty-four when I made my decision to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. I did the unthinkable!

I left my Catholic faith, and saw my family divided as a result.

I had started to attend a Bible study, which was a new experience for me.”

“I was drawn to the Word of God, attracted by the truth that the Word never changes; its message is the same in every generation. And the idea of **simply following Jesus like those first Christians** made sense to me. **It was compelling.**”

“For months I wrestled with the decision I knew I had to make. But I knew my family would be devastated.”



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

There were times when I wept knowing the hurt I would cause them. I reflected on how good my parents had been and the sacrifices they had made.

It seemed that I would be acting in a cruel and ungrateful manner.

But the call of God was too strong to resist.

On the 11th of June 1967 after a Sunday night Bible class,

I committed my life to the Lord and was baptised.

I have never regretted that decision.”

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

On The Positive Side!

It would be foolish to let the cost of following Jesus overshadow the eternal blessing resulting from obedience. The unpalatable truth is that we are sinners, separated from God and unable to reconcile ourselves to Him.

However, what we are unable to do, **Jesus did on our behalf. He has shown Himself to be indispensable to our spiritual recovery. And when our own family stands in our way, the decision to follow Jesus must take precedent.**

Not wanting to cause disruption in one's family is an honourable desire, but if that decision keeps one from becoming a disciple of Jesus, then it is the worst decision one can ever make.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Jesus wants each of us to put Him first,
to make Him the Lord of our life,
to have no one else in our heart but Him.

Jesus wants this level of commitment
so that He can bestow upon us all the rich
and wonderful blessings that come
from having a relationship with Him.

He wants us to give up everything
so that He can give us everything.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

**Jesus implies that when we put ourselves first
We lose our sense of perspective and get caught up
in all sorts of things that are self serving.**

**We often forget to be thankful to our parents.
We fail to appreciate the good qualities of our
brothers and sisters and see them as competitors
for our parents affection and presents.**

**We walk all over others and their feelings because
what we do and feel is more important.**

**Jesus challenges us to put God first
then we will begin to see the world
from a different perspective**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

If we wonder if we are ready to take up our cross,
consider these questions:

Are we willing to follow Jesus if it means losing
some of our closest friends?

Are we willing to follow Jesus if it means
alienation from our family?

Are we willing to follow Jesus if it means
the loss of our reputation?

Are we willing to follow Jesus if it means losing our job?

Are we willing to follow Jesus if it means losing our life?

In some places of the world, **these consequences are reality.**

But notice the questions are phrased, **“Are you willing?”**

Following Jesus doesn't necessarily mean all these things
will happen to you, **but are you willing to take up your cross?**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We are saved to serve!

**We live for the purpose of glorifying God
by our life of service and
being willing to tell others about Jesus.**

Matthew 28:18-20;

**Tells how Jesus sent the apostles
to make disciples of all nations.**

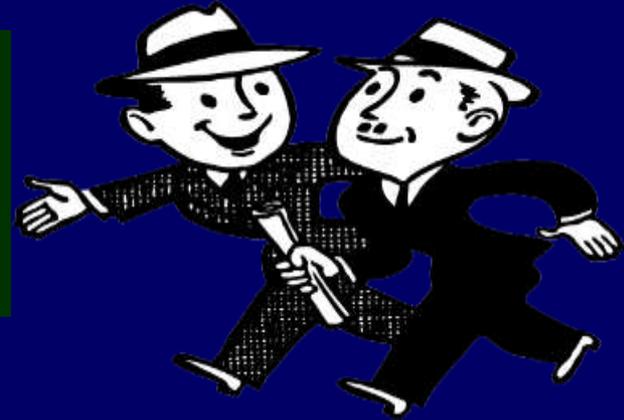
**He wanted those disciples
to teach everything He commanded
the apostles to teach.
That includes us!**



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Our new purpose is to go and share the message of Jesus with everyone in our world.

We see an example of this in Mark 5:17-20; The story of a man who was possessed by demons.



Jesus cast the demons out of the man who then wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus would not allow him to do so. Jesus encouraged him to go back into his village and tell others what was done for him.

**Now that we have a new relationship with God,
We can tell others what a difference
He has made in our lives.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” **1 Pet 2:9;**

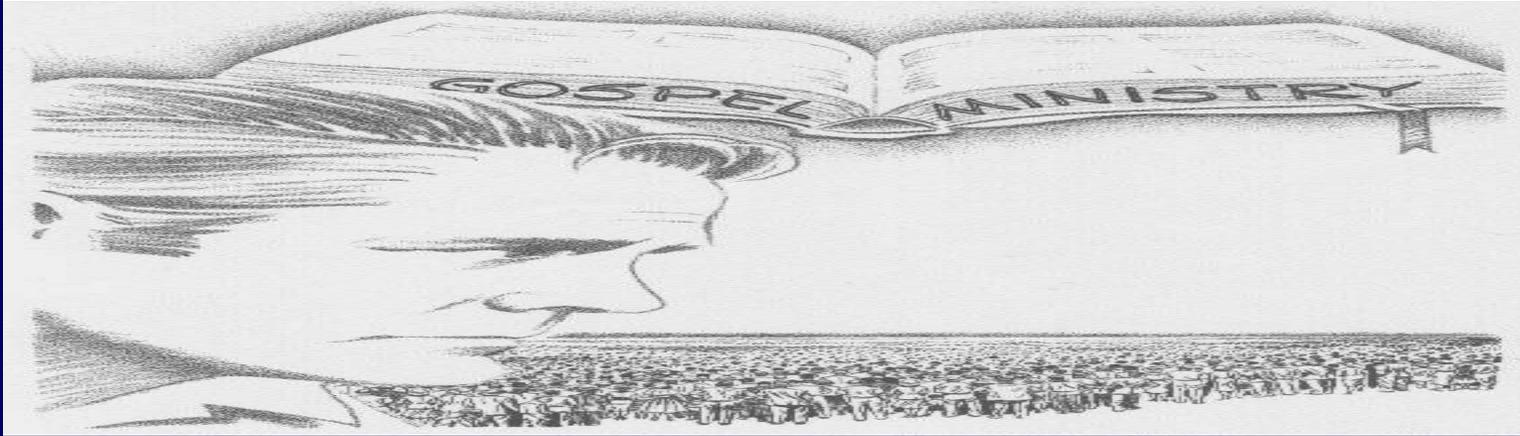
As we become more like Him, you should be as concerned for the souls of others as He is and share the message of His love with them.



Can you think of people in our world who need to know Him and experience the peace, joy, and hope that only He provides?

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that they have put their lives on God's altar as a **LIVING sacrifice**.



We too must think of our self in this way.
We now live for Him and His purpose.

Our whole life should be
a worship to God – to adore,
glorify, honour, and praise Him.
(Eph 1:12;)



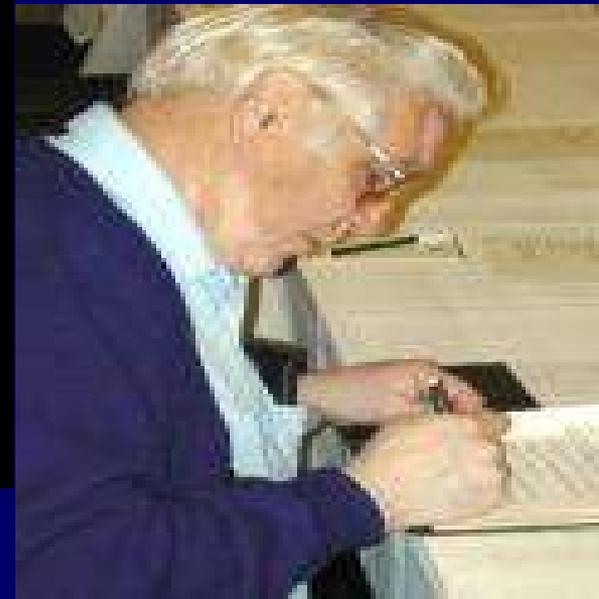
THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We need to ask God to help us see opportunities to share the message of His love. Let us Pray that God will give us the courage to do so.

A better world begins with ME

As Jesus transforms me in and through His word and my service to others has an impact so we may encourage others also to strive to make a difference.

Let us Pray that God will open People's hearts to be receptive. Christ's love demonstrated in us should become the major theme of our life.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Our reason for living is completely changed:-
We now serve God by serving others.

He expects us to do so.
(Ezekiel 3:16-21;) And we will
be held accountable for doing
this. (Matthew 25:31-46;)



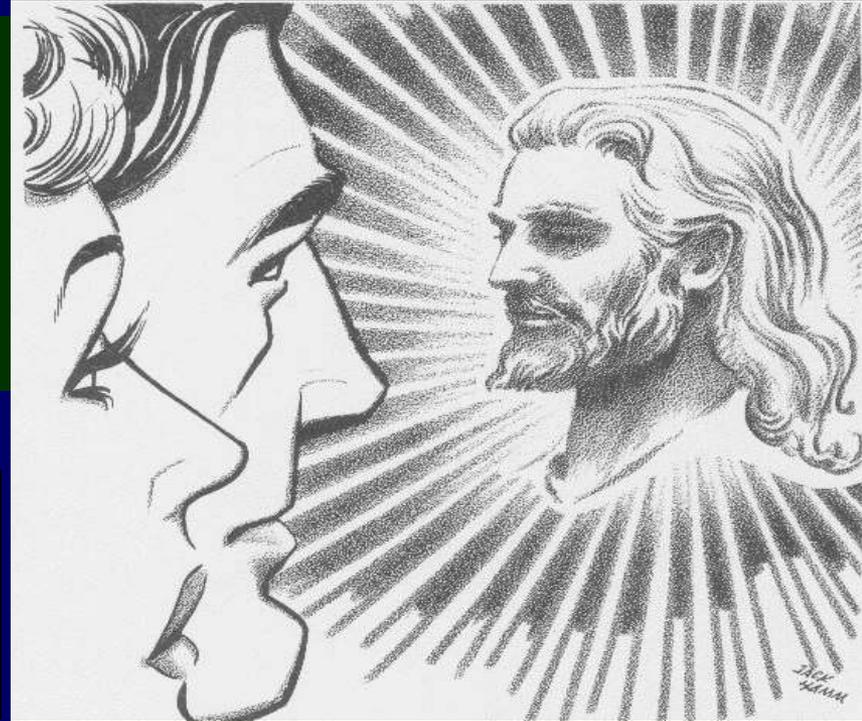
**We serve God by living the message
of His love and grace and telling the message
of His love and grace to the people in our world.**

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

God wants His children to be like Him.

He demonstrated a greater love for us than for Himself when He sent Jesus so we could be saved.

He wants us to think like Him.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We need to live a transformed life!

Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that they have put their lives on God's altar as a living sacrifice. Rom 12:1-2;

We too must think of our self in this way.

We now live for Him and His purpose.

Our whole life should be a worship to God, to adore, glorify, honour, and praise Him. (Eph 1:12;)



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will. Rom 12:1-2;

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

We must CHANGE! Transformation will not happen if we continue to be like the world around us.

We must change the way we think and act. The changes we make will be a clear statement to our world about God's will for them.

WE CAN be LIGHTS to our world.

When they see the good things we do, they will see God's character in us and **give praise and glory to Him.**

(Mat 5 14-16;)



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

1 Pet 2:11-12; “Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.”

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, **they may see your good deeds** and **glorify God** on the day He visits us.”



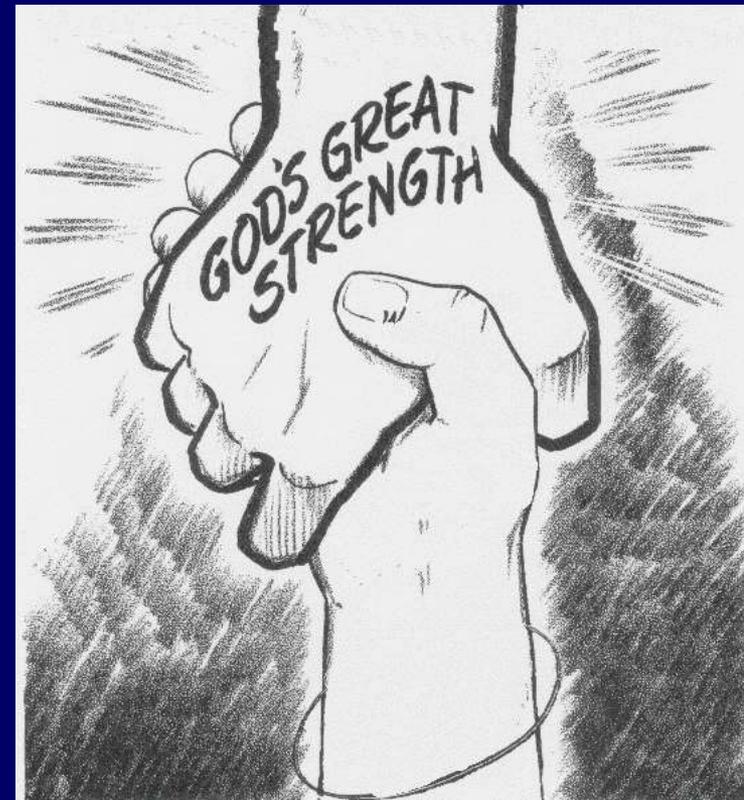
THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

The Power to Change! Have you ever tried to change your habits only to go back to them again?

We fail because we try to change on our own. But now you have received God's spirit to live in you.

He empowers us
to live changed lives.
God gave us His spirit
when we obeyed him.

(Acts 2:38; 5:32;)



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Since our obedience, God has made us the dwelling place of His spirit. (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19;)

The Spirit is the seal and guarantee of our inheritance. (Eph 1:13;) He is our teacher and our guide. (John 14:16-17, 26;)



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. Romans 8:5-14;

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

“Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation, but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

When God's spirit lives in us, we are able to live differently from the rest of the world. He provides the power to do so.

There is no limit in what we are able to do with the power He provides.

We cannot even imagine what He might be able to do through us. We are now tapped into a tremendous resource of great power to change our life.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”. **Eph 3:20-21;**

When God's Spirit is living in us, **our life should bear the fruit of His spirit.** The power available through His Spirit will help us overcome the acts of the sinful nature.



(Galatians 5:16-26;) To have a new nature, **one like Christ's.** Look carefully at the new characteristics His spirit enables us to have.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

In many of Paul's letters he encourages disciples to put off their old nature and to put on the new nature of Jesus Christ.

In each case, Paul was addressing baptized believers. They already possessed the spirit of God, but Paul was reminding them that they still had many changes to make in their lives.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. Eph 4:22-24;

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. Col 3:5-14;

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.”

“But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. Col 3:5-14;

“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity”.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Paul says that love is the most important factor. If we really love other people, we will not mistreat, misuse, or offend them by doing ungodly things.

Paul says love binds everything together in perfect unity.

Love should be the new theme of our life.

Paul reminds these Christians that changes must continue to take place as long as they live.



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. 1 Pet 4:3-4;

“We have already lived long enough like people who don’t know God. We were immoral and followed our evil desires.”

“We went around drinking and partying and carrying on. In fact, we even worshipped disgusting idols.”

“Now our former friends wonder why we have stopped running around with them and they curse us for it.”



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Some fail to make an initial commitment to Jesus because they are afraid they will not be able to keep it perfectly.

That is a WRONG decision to make. No one is able to walk perfectly pure and holy after their new Birth.



We all need the constant cleansing that comes from God through Jesus Christ.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. 1 John 1:7-2:1;

“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

“If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”



THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. Confess our Sins!

He wants us to admit or confess our sins to Him and rely constantly on His cleansing.

So when we fall God wants us to get back up, call on Him in prayer, and move forward in our transformation process.



Some think they cannot become Christians until changes in lifestyle have already been made. What they are really saying is they think they can make those changes by themselves.

God wants us to surrender our life over to the lordship of Jesus Christ. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will begin to live a life of holiness and purity that will glorify God.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

God will keep us clean as promised,
even when we fall.

We can live up to
the cost of being
One of His Disciples.



We can begin to live our life with a whole
new purpose empowered by His Spirit
and cleansed by His blood.

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.

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**Next in the series:-
The Church the Kingdom?**