

The foundations of a disciple

- If a disciple was a building, what would its foundations be made of?
- What will make a disciple stand the test of time?

1. Revelation, Repentance, Relationship.

Revelation

- Matt 16:13-19
- Jesus will build His church on the revelation of Him that comes from the Father.
- Jesus revealed Himself to Paul on the road to Damascus.
- When was your moment? When did you realize that you need Christ to be saved from eternal condemnation and then invited Him into your life, or realized that you know him personally?

Repentance

Acts 26:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ *but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.*

- 180 degree turn away from your old wicked ways.
- Rom.12:1-2 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Think differently!
- City on a hill cannot be hidden – you will stand out.
- Be baptized in water to show to all those who witness that the old is dead, the new has come.

Relationship

- Be born of the Spirit, God is Spirit – you can only relate to him spiritually.
- Jesus frequently spent time with God in a solitary place. You need daily time with God.
- Word – He speaks to us. Prayer – We speak to Him.
- I become like Him by being with Him. Fullness of joy in His presence.
- Make time for Him in your diary – and close the door!

2. Lordship and Obedience

Lordship

Acts 2:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

- Lord: One possessed of absolute control / a supreme master
- Lordship – I hand complete rulership of my life over to Him.
- My thoughts, my words, my actions, my marriage, my family, my job, my social life, my finances are submitted to His rulership.

- “Let your kingdom come, your will be done.” In all of the areas in my life.

Obedience

- The natural outflow of a life completely surrendered to the Lord is obedience.
- You want to and live to obey His commands.
- You want to please Him no matter what the cost.
- We are disobedient because:
 - We have forgotten or watered down what Jesus had done for us on the cross.
 - We have forgotten the price He paid.
 - If we realize again what He did for us we would go anywhere, do anything, pay any price.
 - Matt 25:31-46
 - Do you feed the hungry? Do you give drink to the thirsty? Do you clothe the naked? Do you invite in the stranger? Do you visit the sick? Do you visit those in prison?

3. Faith, Hope, Love

Faith

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)

Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

⁶ *But without faith it is impossible to please Him...*

James 2:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- Faith is the substance & evidence of things not seen.
- Faith is not unseen – faith is visible!
- Faith is standing on God’s Word – that’s the evidence & substance.
- Having faith for something without a scripture is called WHISHFUL THINKING!
- A disciple has an un wavering faith in God and His Word.

Hope

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- We have hope, because we have faith, because we have God’s Word.
- An eternity with Jesus awaits us! We are preparing for eternity!
- Everything I do during every minute of every day has eternal value.
- Without the hope of being with Christ one day we have no message.

Love

- Love for the lost, love for the church, love for God.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- God's love set salvation in motion.
- God's love in our hearts should set us in motion.

1 Corinthians 13:1-4, 13 (NKJV)

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

- Without love we are busy with dead religion, dead works.

Closing

Revelation 2:1-5 (NKJV)

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- The origin of our disobedience is the lack of love for Jesus.
- We realize what He had done for us → we accept it and love Him for it → because we love Him we give Him rulership of our lives → because we love Him we want to obey Him and will go anywhere, do anything, pay any price to be obedient.
- God commands us to make disciples. In disobedience we don't do that. The reason is... YOU DON'T LOVE GOD.
- We simply love ourselves above God.
- God's command to us this morning is "You have left your first love. Repent and return to your first love."

Group notes

Foundation 1: Revelation, Repentance, Relationship

- Describe to the group how and when you met Jesus.
- How did meeting Jesus alter your way of living?
- When do you spend time with God and what happens during that time?

Foundation 2: Lordship, Obedience

- Have you given God rulership of every area of your life? In which area is it still challenging to hand over to His authority?
- What steps are you taking towards being more obedient?

Foundation 3: Faith, Hope, Love

- Luke 1:37 “Nothing is impossible for God?” Do you believe that?
- What hope would you be able to share with a sinner?
- We must love God, other believers, and sinners. What would that practically look like?

“Refer to Scriptures used under each heading in sermon notes if necessary.”