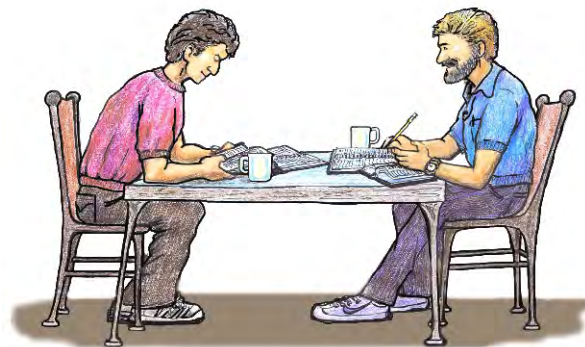




A Tool For Personal Discipleship

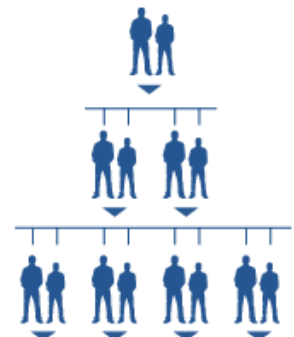
A Guide for Spiritual Mentoring



Spiritual Mentoring / Parenting



Spiritual Fruitfulness



Spiritual Reproduction

Discipler Training International

"A non-denominational discipleship ministry providing discipleship lessons for spiritual growth, discipling others, and training disciplers."

www.disciplers.org

This discipleship material continues to be a work in progress, under the Holy Spirit's guidance. We welcome comments and/or suggestions to enhance accuracy or clarity. Our desire is to make these spiritual concepts as understandable as possible for all believers, especially newer and immature believers.

I want to express my gratitude to my wife, Toni, and to our ministry co-workers, Frank & Jeannette Meitz, all of whom have provided insights and recommendations that have been so very helpful in making this ministry more effective as an instrument to promote personal discipleship and to help believers toward spiritual maturity and spiritual fruitfulness. - Art Barkley

Anyone may freely reproduce and distribute this material, but it may not be altered or sold without the author, Art Barkley's consent. You can contact Art at info@disciplers.org

All DTI materials are free and available for downloading from our website at www.disciplers.org. If you are unable to download the discipleship files, please contact us at info@disciplers.org

Discipler Training International

**P. O. Box 61911
Reno, NV 89506
USA**

www.disciplers.org

DTI is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

© Copyright 1997-2016 Art Barkley - Discipler Training Int'l.
Box 61911 Reno, NV 89506 USA

Our internet website was graciously designed and is maintained by:

The Computer Guy
1185 California Ave., Suite G
Reno NV 89509 USA
(775) 829-2341

www.renocomputerguy.com

Allegra Printing

5301 Longley Lane, Ste. 47 Reno, NV 89511 775-829-7768

www.allegrareno.com

2016 35th Printing

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are taken from the HCSB[®],
Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.
HCSB[®] is a federally registered trademark of Holman Bible Publishers.

Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®] Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by
Biblica, Inc.[®] Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version[®]. NKJV, Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Table of Contents

“A Tool For Personal Discipleship”

| <u>Lesson #</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Lesson Description</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|

INTRODUCTION – *Explanation and Overview*

| | | |
|-----------|------|--|
| Intro – 1 | v | DTI Mission Statement |
| Intro – 2 | vii | A Note from the Author |
| Intro – 3 | viii | Redefining Discipleship |
| Intro – 4 | xix | Course Timeline for the DTI Discipleship Curriculum |
| Intro – 5 | xx | Quick Start Recommendations for Using These Discipleship Materials |

PHASE 1 – *Understanding the Christian Life*

| | | |
|------|----|--|
| | 3 | Phase 1 Discipleship Curriculum |
| 1-1 | 4 | Abbreviated Overview of the “Normal” Christian Life |
| 1-2 | 9 | A Christian Needs to Pursue an Intimate Relationship with God |
| 1-3 | 17 | Some Principles Related to Salvation |
| 1-4 | 21 | The Spiritual Anatomy of a Christian |
| 1-5 | 22 | The Origin of a Christian’s Two Natures |
| 1-6 | 27 | How to Relate to the Holy Spirit |
| 1-7 | 32 | Normal Progressive Development of a Christian (Lordship & Surrender) |
| 1-8 | 38 | The Two Natures and Abiding |
| 1-9 | 42 | “Abiding” Principles to Help Me Maintain Fellowship with The Lord |
| 1-10 | 46 | Verses And Illustrations Related to “Abiding” |
| 1-11 | 50 | Abiding Today, The Present, This Moment |
| 1-12 | 54 | Living Daily In (or Out of) Fellowship with The Lord |
| 1-13 | 60 | The 3 Major Phases of the Normal Healthy Christian Life |
| 1-14 | 62 | Hardships, Suffering and God’s Sovereignty |
| 1-15 | 73 | "Making Right Choices, Discerning God’s Will" |
| 1-16 | 80 | Christian Maturity |

Phase 1 Appendix – *Accompanying Lesson Handouts*

| | | |
|----------|----|--|
| Appx - 1 | 85 | How I Grow into His Perspective (<i>use with Lesson 1-2</i>) |
| Appx - 2 | 86 | Rooms of Your House Blank Diagram (<i>use with Lesson 1-7</i>) |

Lesson # Page Lesson Description

PHASE 2 – *Discipler Training*

| | | |
|-----|-----|--|
| | 88 | Phase 2 Discipleship Curriculum |
| 2-1 | 89 | Ten Reasons Why Personal Discipleship Is Needed |
| 2-2 | 95 | Addresses the Question, “What Is Personal Discipleship?” |
| 2-3 | 101 | Some Thoughts on How New Believers Grow Spiritually |
| 2-4 | 111 | Addresses The Question, “What Is a Disciple?” |
| 2-5 | 115 | Guidelines for Discipling Others |
| 2-6 | 120 | Discussion Points Related to Discipleship |

PHASE 3 – *Amplified Discipleship Concepts*

Part I – An “Overview” of the Christian Life

| | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| | 124 | Phase 3 Discipleship Curriculum |
| 3-1 | 126 | A Summarized Review of the Christian Life |

Part II – The Concept of Lordship

| | | |
|-----|-----|---|
| 3-2 | 134 | Several Human Predispositions that Need to Be Understood |
| 3-3 | 135 | How the Christian Community Is Divided into Two Camps |
| 3-4 | 142 | The Israelite Journey as an Analogy to the Christian Journey |
| 3-5 | 159 | Some Verses and Principles Related to the Concept of Lordship |
| 3-6 | 168 | The 3 Areas of My Life that Need to Be Surrendered |
| 3-7 | 175 | Discussion Points Related to Salvation, the 2 Natures, and Lordship |

Part III – The Concept of Abiding

| | | |
|------|-----|---|
| 3-8 | 178 | How a Christian Interacts with the Holy Spirit and the Human Nature |
| 3-9 | 182 | A Lesson from Joshua 7 on Abiding, Confession, and Restoration |
| 3-10 | 186 | Some Thoughts on Abiding from John 15 |
| 3-11 | 192 | The Son Is Our Model for Continual Abiding |
| 3-12 | 195 | A Diagram and Some Verses of the Christian as a Temple of God |
| 3-13 | 198 | The Judgment Seat of Christ |
| 3-14 | 204 | A Theological Study on the Judgment Seat of Christ |
| 3-15 | 217 | Discussion Points Related to Abiding and <i>The Bema Seat</i> |

Part IV – Christian Living

| | | |
|------|-----|--|
| 3-16 | 220 | Contrasts Between Walking in the Spirit and Walking in the Flesh |
|------|-----|--|

DISCIPLE ASSESSMENT – *Diagnostic Tools*

| | | |
|----------|-----|--|
| Asst – 1 | 222 | 5 Biblical Concepts Every Believer Needs to Know |
| Asst – 2 | 224 | Where Am I as a Christian? - Diagnostic Tool |



Mission Statement

*Training Disciples to help
every Christian grow to
Maturity and Fruitfulness
in Christ*

We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

(Col. 1:28-29)

These discipleship materials are not designed to be given to the typical newer believer with the expectation that they will be able to understand them on their own, without personal mentoring.

The lessons are intended to serve as a tool to stimulate conversation between the newer believer and the discipler ("spiritual parent"), which will hopefully, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, help the discipler to identify and address spiritual needs and gaps in the disciple's spiritual understanding.

A Note from the Author

We believe there are some foundational **principles** that all believers, especially newer believers, need to understand. Often Biblical “knowledge” is presented to new Christians instead of Biblical “principles” to be applied in their lives and **personalized** instruction to help them mature more rapidly. New believers need to be quickly introduced to a life of walking in **dependence on the Lord**. (A manual for a car or computer may have the exact specifications and a great description, but to learn to drive a vehicle properly or operate a computer, most people will greatly benefit from individual mentoring.)

We believe it pleases God when we have the attitude of a disciple (an apprentice learner), having more concern about God making us into the most usable instrument possible in this life, and minimal interest in defending our personal viewpoints. We shouldn’t have any beliefs that are not open for Him to alter. We encourage anyone reading “A Tool For Personal Discipleship” to prayerfully consider the validity of these concepts with an open mind, led by the Holy Spirit, and to give us any feedback that would help us to present Biblical truth clearly and accurately. Our passion to help believers to grow to spiritual maturity and fruitfulness in Christ is knit together with our desire to be true to Scripture.

We also believe that there are some harmful **misconceptions** that are prevalent in the Christian community, which are **assumed** to be Scriptural, primarily because only one viewpoint of a Biblical principle is presented. The **neglect**, or omission, of any part of the Bible (for example, the rewards ceremony of Christ) can easily convey that the concept is really not of any great significance. Various misconceptions have resulted in many unhealthy Christians who have not grown from infancy to maturity in Christ so as to become **spiritual reproducers** (disciplers), a goal for which God has made every provision.

Our desire is to give each newer believer (and any spiritually hungry older believer) a clear **overview** of the Christian life and a basic understanding of **God’s objectives**. We believe that the failure to clearly explain essential Biblical concepts and goals to new converts **initially** so they learn them early in their walk, is one of the main reasons for the lack of spiritual vitality in the Christian community. If such principles are presented early on, new believers will be saved from much unneeded frustration as they seek to understand what God wants to do in and through their lives. For most converts the **first few months** are critical. This is the time to take advantage of the initial **disposition to learning** that characterizes the normal new believer. Too often new believers are simply placed in the presence of Biblical truth and expected to somehow **assimilate** Biblical understanding. New believers will tend to **adopt** the outlook and value system of those they associate with during the formative first part of their Christian walk. It is not a surprise that many new believers come to the conclusion that Sunday services are the most important spiritual experience of the week, rather than developing a spiritual walk with God that is a 24/7 experience.

Caution: Please do not give these lessons to someone without adequate explanation. We usually tend to assume that others understand more than they actually do. If the disciple grasps and applies the concepts presented here, the energy and hours you have invested will be well worth it.

- Art Barkley

Redefining Discipleship

by Art Barkley

I think most church leaders would agree that the Body of Christ is not having the impact on the world that we would desire. There are a myriad of reasons that can be put forth as to why the Church is not more spiritually healthy.

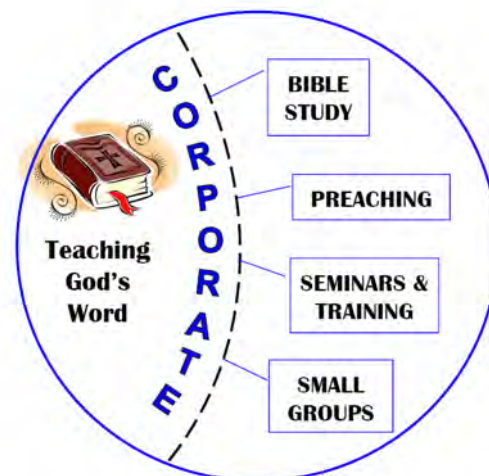
I would like to present what I believe is the single biggest reason for the spiritual weakness that is so prevalent in the Body of Christ, and a solution to reverse the trend.

In Colossians 1:28-29, Paul states, *"Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present **every** person **mature** (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One). For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me."* (Amplified Bible)

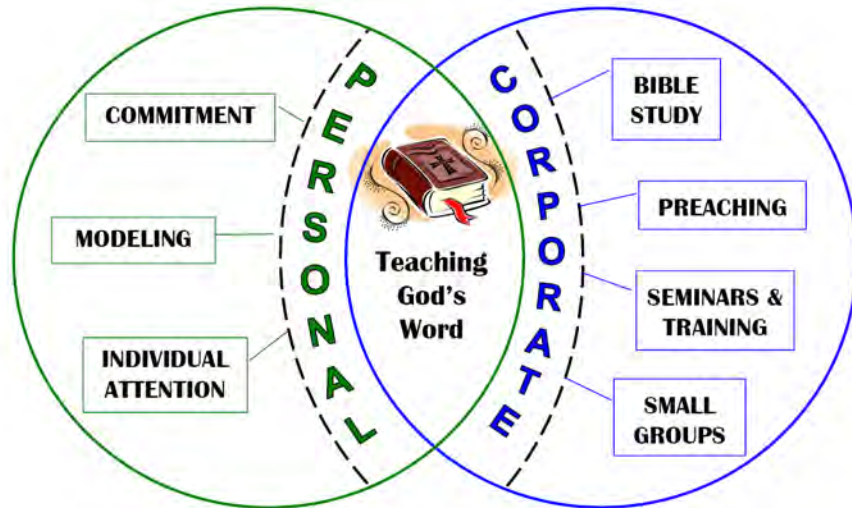
Paul's passion was to help **every** believer to reach the level of spiritual maturity that God has intended. If God's intention is for believers to become spiritually mature, then one must ask, "why are so many believers immature"?

At a seminar, I heard the following statement: *"The system you have in place is perfectly designed for the results you are getting"*. I would like to suggest that the Church has strayed from God's model for spiritual growth. Let's take a look at what the typical church model for spiritual growth looks like, and what can be changed.

The typical church has been successful in providing what we refer to as "**Corporate Discipleship**", which is an essential element for healthy individual spiritual growth, as well as for healthy church growth.



However, we believe there is another element that is essential to normal healthy spiritual growth, which we refer to as "Personal Discipleship". The following diagram depicts what a Balanced Approach might look like, consisting of both "Corporate Discipleship" AND "Personal Discipleship".



Church leaders already know what Corporate Discipleship looks like, so let's look at the "Personal Discipleship" model, which we also refer to as "Spiritual Parenting". We derive the term "Spiritual Parenting" from 1st Thessalonians, which we'll look at shortly.

The Four Components of "Spiritual Parenting"



Detailed Explanation of the Balanced Discipleship Approach

OVERVIEW: We believe that wherever believers gather, "Balanced" Discipleship should be practiced. In other words, **both** "Corporate" and "Personal" discipleship are needed for healthy spiritual growth. The two types of discipleship each have their unique roles, and they complement each other.

A PROBLEM: Many churches are heavily weighted towards corporate discipleship, which often has the appearance of being more “efficient.” Personal discipleship is generally more resource intensive (time, energy, finances), but we believe it is more effective for accelerating a newer believer’s spiritual development. Many church leaders would like to be available to give each believer adequate individual attention, but that is usually impractical, due to their numerous other responsibilities, and lack of time.

IS THERE A SOLUTION? We believe an answer is for pastors and leaders to train “faithful” believers in the church body, who in turn can disciple (spiritually parent) newer believers. We are aware that many pastors and leaders need assistance in training disciplers, and one of the goals of DTI is to provide discipleship materials and assistance in training.

In many churches, discipleship has come to mean “the presentation of biblical truth.” Thus many leaders perceive that their responsibility is to present biblical truth, with the expectation that it is then the responsibility of each believer to allow the Holy Spirit to apply those truths to their own lives. However, since most newer believers are unfamiliar with the Holy Spirit, they need someone to personally help them to understand how to cooperate with Him in their personal spiritual development.

In many churches the idea is conveyed that to present God's Word correctly, seminary or Bible school training is needed. Certainly Bible school or seminary training has been used by God in the spiritual development of many leaders, but is it realistic to expect the typical Christian to have such training? Does this idea not lead many believers to consider themselves to be under-qualified?

In Ephesians 4:11-16, Paul says, ... *some **pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry**, to build up the body of Christ, ... promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.*

Should it not be the goal of leaders to see that “personal discipleship” and “spiritual reproduction” are the “norm” rather than the exception? Should we not expect every believer to be in the process of being disciplined, or to be actively involved in the spiritual growth of other believers?

Corporate Discipleship: The Corporate side of this model: Preaching, Conducting a Seminar or Small Group, Training, etc. will often be led by a believer who has the gift of teaching. Bible school or seminary training would be helpful, but not essential.

Personal Discipleship: The Personal side of this model: the gift of teaching is not a biblical requirement for personally discipling (spiritually parenting) another believer. How many couples would have children if they had waited until they felt “qualified?”

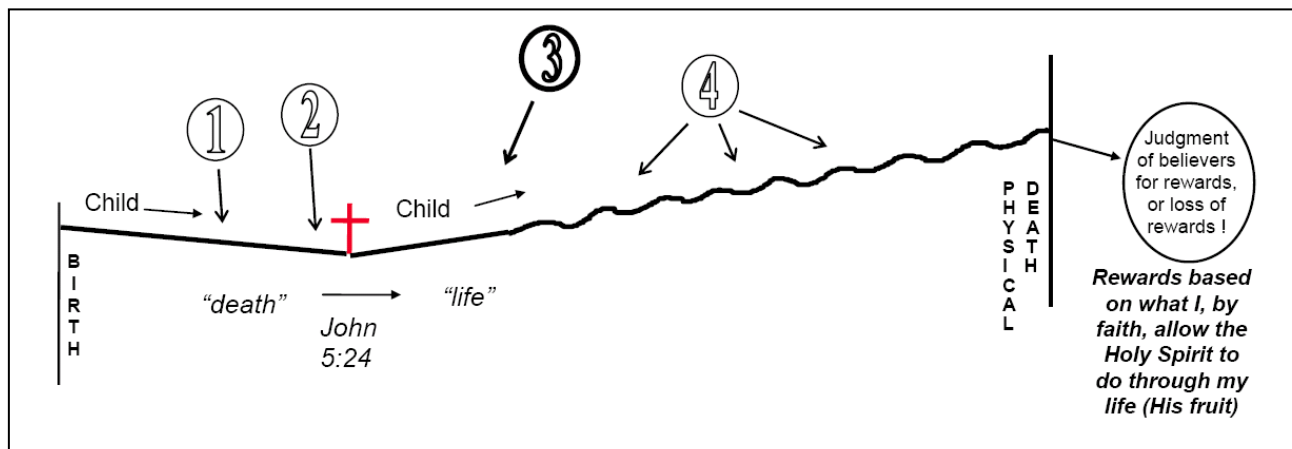
THE FOUR COMPONENTS OF THE PERSONAL MODEL: (See Lesson 2-2 for further details.)

1. **God’s Word:** “Teaching God's Word” is an essential component common to **both** the Corporate and the Personal side of all discipleship. God does not want the Bible to be seen simply as an academic text, but rather as a revelation of His character. The Bible is a means by which humans can “know” Him. **This is eternal life: that they may know You,**... (John 17:3). The Holy Spirit’s guidance will always be in accordance with His Word.

2. **Commitment:** This has to do with the heart attitude of the discipler (spiritual parent) in regards to the spiritual welfare and development of the disciple. This is a commitment that goes beyond just presenting God's word. The biblical idea of a disciple is more of an "apprentice" than just a student.
3. **Modeling:** Hopefully the biblical disciple (apprentice) will end up with the passion of the discipler. The discipler is a model to the disciple, in ways that go beyond that of a teacher and student. How do you teach patience, or faithfulness, or passion? These things are seen more than heard.
4. **Individual Attention:** We are not interested in academically presenting points 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 to a disciple. The discipler should be prayerfully available to the Holy Spirit, to be used as an instrument as He develops the newer believer and addresses the particular needs of the disciple. The material from *A Tool For Personal Discipleship* is designed with the intent of stimulating questions and conversation that will promote spiritual growth both in the discipler and the disciple. Each discipler will have unique and personal experiences that the Holy Spirit can bring to mind and use in the discipling process.

The following diagram depicts what we believe should represent the life of a Christian, resulting in accelerated spiritual growth.

A Biblical Timeline of a Christian's Life



- ① Represents the "unsaved" period of time (spiritually dead to God) in a person's life, from physical birth to spiritual birth. During this period "self-dependence" becomes a habit of everyday living, a way of life.
- ② Represents the "Evangelism" stage, culminating in the event of salvation, at which time a person passes from being spiritually dead to being spiritually alive to God.
- ③ Represents the "Spiritual Parenting" stage, that is, the critical formative period of time in which a Christian needs to be "spiritually parented" (discipled) through the first steps of learning to increasingly live in dependence on the Holy Spirit.



Represents the process of “sanctification”. Having been personally disciplined, the believer now has a basic understanding of the Master-servant relationship and the need to follow the Holy Spirit, so as to continue being led and transformed by Him.

THE ANTICIPATED RESULTS OF DISCIPLESHIP ARE:
 SPIRITUAL MATURITY
 SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS
 SPIRITUAL REPRODUCTION

A MEASURE OF SUCCESS IS INDICATED WHEN THE BELIEVER BEING DISCIPLINED BECOMES A FUNCTIONING DISCIPLER.

Now we’ll look at the concept of “Spiritual Parenting”, as illustrated in 1 Thess. 2, where the Apostle Paul portrays himself as a “spiritual parent”. We believe that God has given us a model that will serve to accelerate the spiritual growth of the typical believer.

A Biblical Model for “Discipleship”



THEY WERE SINGLE-MINDED IN PURPOSE

:3-6 ... we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed — God is witness — nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

1. THEY CARED FOR THE BELIEVERS AS A MOTHER CARES FOR HER CHILDREN

:7-8 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing MOTHER tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

2. THEY BECAME "ROLE MODELS" TO THE NEW BELIEVERS

:9-10 you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

3. THEY GAVE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION AND INSTRUCTION AS A FATHER

:11-12 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring EACH ONE of you as a FATHER would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

4. THE WORD OF GOD WAS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF DISCIPLESHIP

:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

(1 Thessalonians 2:3-13)

A Further Description of the Preceding Model

Overview

The diagram, "*A Biblical Model For Discipleship*" depicts how we believe Balanced Discipleship should look in the typical believer's spiritual life, including both Personal Discipleship ("Spiritual Parenting") and Corporate Discipleship. The two forms of discipleship are illustrated, using a time line.

Corporate Discipleship

As already mentioned, even though most churches are well acquainted with, and employ, Corporate Discipleship (represented by the dotted line over the lifespan of the believer), many church leaders would acknowledge that something is still lacking in the spiritual growth of most believers.

Personal Discipleship

In many cases "Personalized Discipleship" (Spiritual Parenting) is the missing ingredient for producing healthy spiritual growth. Each new believer has unique spiritual needs that should be addressed. Typically there is a window of opportunity for new believers, during which time they are open to biblical concepts, which can accelerate their growth toward spiritual maturity and fruitfulness. There is a parallel between the spiritual development of a believer and the development of a baby. In both cases, the initial period is a "formative" stage of their lives. We believe this is why God chose to use spiritual terminology that parallels the human experience; such as "born again", "baby", etc.

Too often believers are left to fend for themselves, with the apparent assumption that simply hearing biblical presentations and being in the presence of other believers will be sufficient. We believe many new Christians would have experienced much more spiritual growth had someone given them adequate personal attention when they first accepted Christ as their

Savior. New believers will often come to correct conclusions if biblical truths are clearly presented in a personal format.

New believers are usually hungry, and long for personal guidance, much like a new baby. The typical new believer is excited about having their sins forgiven and knowing that they're going to heaven. **However, that enthusiasm should not be mistaken for spiritual understanding.** New believers need clear instruction in order to understand how to recognize the Holy Spirit's involvement in their life, and how to listen to, follow and obey Him. They also need to understand how to cooperate with Him in their own spiritual development.

Biblical Support for Personalized Discipleship (1 Thess. 2:3-13)

In this model for Personal Discipleship, Paul clearly depicts himself as a "Spiritual Parent" (Spiritual Father and Mother), caring for spiritual children. We believe that Paul lays out a biblical perspective of how a Spiritual Parent should relate to each spiritual child, or disciple. The human parallel is intentional and unmistakable.

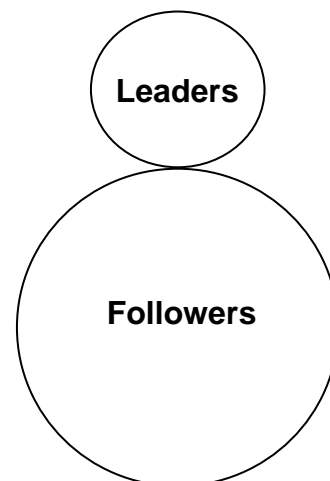
You may rightfully ask, if personal discipleship is so obvious, why is it not woven into the fabric of most churches? This is a logical question, and a few reasons why I believe personal discipleship has been neglected are presented below.

- 1) ***Who is available to provide the individual attention needed by each new convert?*** Leaders are presumed to be trained, but generally lack the time for personal discipleship. Many followers have the time, but **don't feel they're adequately trained.**

Typical Modern Church Congregation

Leaders typically are perceived to be "**trained**", but don't feel they have the necessary **time** to devote to each individual.

Followers, on the other hand, usually have more **time**, but don't feel they are adequately **trained** to meet the needs of new believers.



God in His wisdom designed the Church as a "body", the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. As is recorded clearly in the 1st letter to the Corinthians, He placed the members of the Body in such a way that they would be interdependent, and share responsibilities and service

that are initiated and directed by the Holy Spirit to accomplish His purposes. He never intended that a special category of believers (leadership) should carry the load, but rather the responsibilities of service should be spread across the Body.

*And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, **for the equipping** of the saints **for the work of service**, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **mature** man, ... we are to **grow up** in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what **every joint** supplies, according to the proper working of **each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)

- 2) ***Is a spiritual gift required to disciple?*** There is a common misconception that the average Christian cannot effectively disciple another Christian unless they are “spiritually gifted”. Is there a scriptural basis for that belief? I think not. Most Christians correctly believe that they should be available to the Lord for the purpose of being a witness to the unsaved, even though there is not a “witnessing” gift. Likewise, there is not a “discipling” gift. This misconception can be a convenient rationale to excuse the lack of discipleship, but it has no scriptural basis. Church leadership ought to convey to congregations that **every** Christian should be available to the Holy Spirit as a discipler (spiritual parent), just as he, or she, should be available as a witness.
- 3) ***To influence many people simultaneously is generally considered the method of choice.*** When incorrectly evaluated, personal one-on-one discipleship appears to be too time-consuming, energy consuming, and **inefficient**.

The concept we want to demonstrate is that the biblical method of **multiplication** is much more productive **over the long term**. This is very important, because the seeming short-term ineffectiveness has led many to the illusion that it really is not the best method. To be honest, many Christian leaders measure **success by numbers**. We believe this is one of the reasons there is such an emphasis in the Christian community to hold **events and activities**, which give the impression of short-term success if attendance is the measure.

Most churches experience numerical growth through the process of “addition”. The following chart illustrates a potential numerical growth, using the process of “multiplication”. Obviously the process of numerical growth through “addition” gives the illusion of short-term success, while the process of “multiplication” appears painstakingly slow. Jesus spent about 3 years with 12 disciples who probably would not have been the first choice of religious leaders. Personal discipleship is resource intensive, but over the long run results in not only greater numerical growth, but also in a greater number of believers who have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Potential Church Growth through Spiritual Multiplication

| Number of "CONVERTS" (1 converted each day) | | Number of "DISCIPLES" (1 disciplined each 6 months) |
|--|-----------------|--|
| 1 | To start | 1 |
| 183 | ½ year | 2 |
| 365 | 1 year | 4 |
| 730 | 2 years | 16 |
| 1,095 | 3 years | 64 |
| 1,460 | 4 years | 256 |
| 2,190 | 6 years | 4,096 |
| 2,920 | 8 years | 65,536 |
| 3,650 | 10 years | 1,048,576 |
| 4,380 | 12 years | 16,777,216 |

The figures in the **left-hand column** represent the approximate number of **converts** that could be attained to if a Christian were able to win one person to Christ each day of the year. The figures in the **right-hand column** represent the approximate number of fruitful **disciples** that could be attained to if each Christian would be faithful during each 6 month period to disciple just one new convert to a level of spiritual maturity whereby the newer Christian could be used by the Lord in turn to disciple another convert. The figures in the right-hand column are less impressive at the beginning, but as can be seen, have a much greater long-term benefit.

*The things which you (Timothy) have heard from me (Paul) in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to **faithful** men who will be able to teach **others** also. (2 Tim. 2:2)*

4) **Personal discipleship (spiritual parenting) is not promoted and modeled by the leadership in many churches** – In 1 Peter 5:1-3 leaders are told, "..., I exhort the elders among you, ..., shepherd the flock of God among you, ... nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be **examples** to the flock."

Can Christian leaders realistically expect followers to imitate what they themselves are not **modeling**?

Both the command to be witnesses, as well as the command to make disciples, were given to the Church at large, not just to those that were physically present at the time. (Matthew 28:18-20 & Acts 1:8)

How Does the Typical New Believer Acquire Spiritual Understanding?

If a new believer is not instructed otherwise, he will typically appropriate the values and convictions of the Christian peers that he associates with during the formative period of his new spiritual life, just as a child will tend to adopt the values and convictions of his family and peers.

Let's say that a new Christian is brought into association with a group of Navigators (Navigators.org), who we would rightly expect to quickly begin to challenge the believer's former values and convictions. That believer is either going to adopt the Navigator's values and convictions, or he will become so uncomfortable that he will seek a more "friendly" and less intrusive environment.

But what happens if there is not such a group of relatively mature mentors who will take the new believer under wing? Typically the new believer will be introduced into a congregation, where it is often assumed that "sitting under the preaching of the Word" will be sufficient to lead that new believer into a spiritually mature walk. Hopefully, the negative traits observed in the congregation do not distort the new believer's understanding. Is that realistic? We believe it is safe to say that most new believers will be impacted more by what they "see" other believers do, than what they "hear" them say. If a particular congregation is thought to be spiritually mature, then it would be realistic to reason that the combination of "hearing" biblical truth from a pastor/teacher, together with "seeing" biblical spirituality modeled from the congregation, would be a tremendous help in the healthy spiritual growth of each new believer. Leaders need to realistically evaluate the spiritual health of the congregation, asking themselves, "**Do we want new believers to become like the 'typical' member of this congregation?**" If the answer is no, then arrangements need to be put in place to impart biblical values to new believers.

We should not expect the new believer to understand much about the Christian walk. It is only natural for new believers to be mainly concerned with doing the right things, which would indicate that their focus is on external behavior. A new believer should be able to make the assumption that if he behaves like "older" Christians, then logically he'll be behaving in an acceptable biblical fashion, since those older Christians have "obviously" styled their behavior on biblical patterns. Right? Unfortunately, the answer is NO. Many older believers have adopted their behavior from previous older Christians who they similarly "assumed" to be spiritual. And so one generation follows the next. Unwittingly, many Christian leaders are "conveying" approval of this natural human process, by not insuring that each new believer is personally helped through the formative and critical period of the Christian walk.

While it is totally natural for new believers to begin the Christian walk focusing on "external behavior", we believe it is God's purpose for these believers to quickly begin to focus on living by "biblical principles". Probably more than 90% of typical daily external behavior is not addressed specifically in the Bible. The typical Christian will not "transition" from focusing on external behavior to focusing on biblical principles, unless another Christian is

willing to put the time and energy into helping him understand God's purposes and His process for producing spiritual growth.

The typical new believer understands the foundational doctrine of salvation by grace through Christ. Now he wants to build on that truth, but isn't quite sure how to go about it. Is it reasonable to simply give him a Bible and expect him to effectively grow onto spiritual maturity?

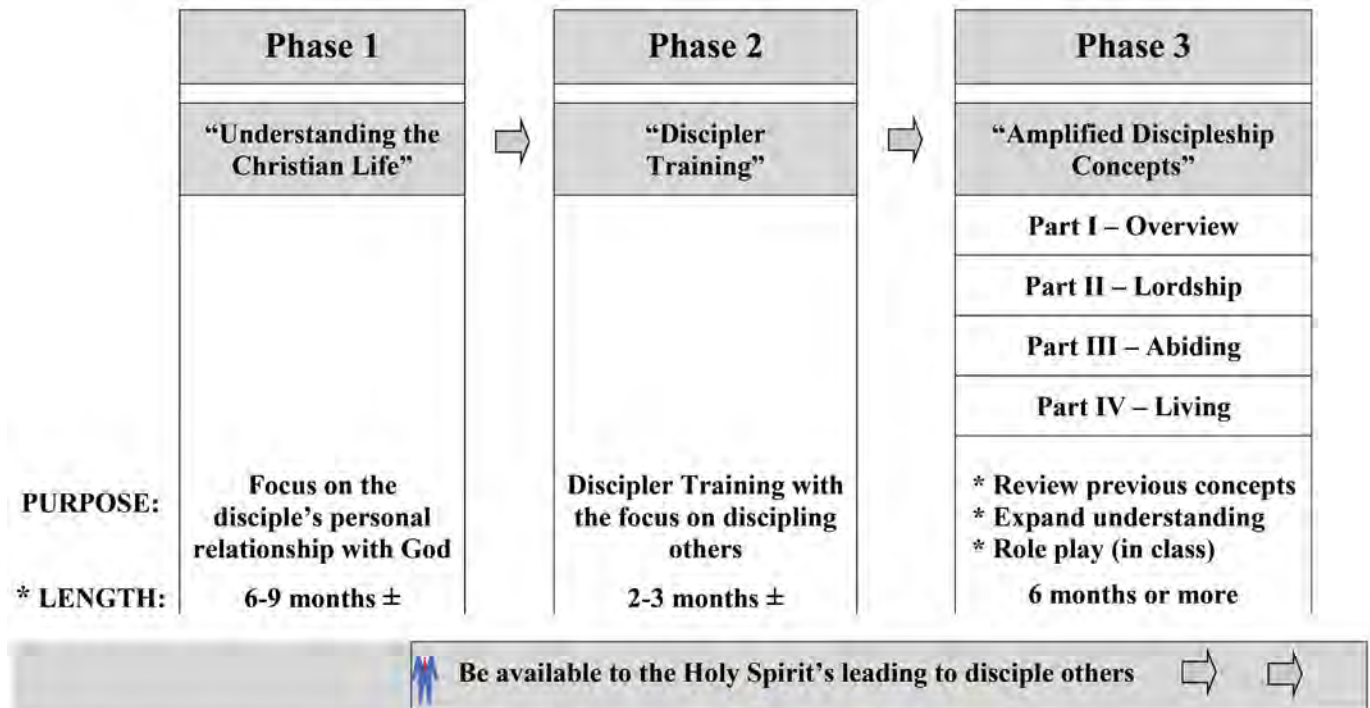
It is possible, but we think it is the exception. Because some new believers do seem to display spiritual growth with little individual mentoring, a **false impression** is given. We are tempted to ask, "Why can't more Christians grow like that?" Isn't it also true that in the secular world there are those who excel without much help from others? But are they not the exception too? For instance, we can hand a **computer manual** to 100 people who have no prior computer understanding. A few will manage, with difficulty, to eventually figure things out. But the vast majority will become frustrated and decide that a computer really isn't worth all the hassle. Many Christians, left on their own, reach the same conclusion regarding the Christian life. Which would you prefer, to be given a computer manual to learn on your own, or to have someone take the time to personally tutor you and answer your questions? We can truthfully state that the manual has **all** the knowledge you'll need, and it is **clearly** presented. How about constructing a house? How many inexperienced men would enjoy being handed blueprints and a manual for building a house, and be expected to do a decent job? Not many.

Some might argue that the Holy Spirit alone should be the new believer's Teacher. The biblical analogy of a new believer being likened to a "baby" carries little meaning if we don't accept the analogous implications. Does the command to "make disciples" simply convey the idea of handing someone a Biblical Manual? Does the Holy Spirit not expect older Christians to be **available** for His use in the process of spiritual parenting, just as He wants them to be available as witnesses when He chooses to convict an unbeliever?

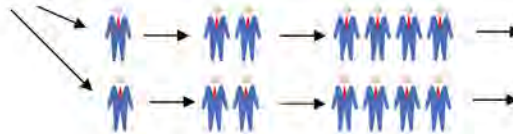
Discipler Training International Course Timeline

(Preferably one-on-one, but also in a Corporate Setting, or both)

“A Tool for Personal Discipleship”



* Note: Time frames are estimated and not critical, and are calculated on meeting one time each week.



Important: Preference should be given to using these lessons on a one-to-one basis, although they can also be used effectively in a class setting. For most Christians the lessons will need detailed explanation.

These lessons are not designed to be simply read through like a newspaper, but rather to be personalized by the discipler, and to serve as a means to stimulate dialog and address spiritual issues that need to be understood in order for each Christian to become an effective and useful tool in His hands.

Quick-Start Recommendations

Our mission statement is taken from Colossians 1:28-29, "*We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.*"

We endeavor to accomplish this by following Paul's example in 2 Timothy 2:2, where he wrote, "*And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*"

In this passage we see four generations of disciplers! (Paul, Timothy, reliable men, others) That is why we use the term "spiritual parenting" to describe our discipleship methodology. Disciplers should have the desire to become "spiritual grandparents."

Spiritual Parenting demands not only teaching Biblical truths, but also conveying an understanding to the disciple, that as the Holy Spirit leads, we anticipate spiritual reproduction in addition to spiritual fruitfulness (Romans 7:4).

Therefore, we believe that every new convert should be personally disciplined ("spiritually parented") as soon as possible after conversion to accelerate their Christian growth.

Our desire is the same as was Paul's: for believers to understand how to grow spiritually, to abide in fellowship with the Lord and to clearly explain the Christian life to others.

Note: Effective personal discipleship (spiritual parenting), similar to raising children, can be a slow process, because it takes time for a newer believer to comprehend, internalize and then impart to others the Biblical concepts contained in these discipleship materials. Our DTI team is available to help you along the way, so please don't hesitate to contact us. (www.disciplers.org)

The flowchart on the following page can help you determine, based on your "role," how to begin using "*A Tool For Personal Discipleship*" and its extensive curriculum. You will find additional resources to help you along the way listed below the flowchart.

Important: Preference should be given to using these lessons on a one-to-one basis, although they can also be used effectively in a small group. For most newer believers, the lessons will need detailed explanation. Therefore, these lessons are not designed to simply be read through like a textbook, but rather to be personalized by the discipler, and to serve as a means to stimulate dialog and address spiritual issues that need to be understood in order for each believer to become an effective and useful tool in His hands.

Quick-Start Recommendations

How To Begin Based on Your "Role"

Use this chart to help you determine where to "get started" using The Tool.

| My Role | Method | Time Commitment |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| I am a Pastor/Leader and want to better understand Biblical discipleship. | 1. Prayerfully go through Phase 2 . | |
| I am a Pastor/Leader and want to train believers in my church to disciple others. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayerfully select a small group of leaders that you consider "faithful," and lead them through Phase 2. 2. Take the same group through Phase 1. As you progress, most likely some will feel motivated by the Holy Spirit to start mentoring (spiritual parenting) newer (immature) believers through Phase 1. 3. To assist them in discipling, have them review the guidelines found in lesson 2-5. | Approximately 6-9 months. |
| I am a mature believer and want to disciple a new(er) believer. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read and carefully consider the guidelines in Lesson 2-5. 2. Prayerfully go through, with the disciple, the two lessons in the Disciple Assessment section to help diagnose the spiritual maturity level of the believer. 3. Begin the mentoring process using Phase 1. | Approximately 6-9 months. |
| I am a believer who has <u>not</u> been disciplined and desire to better understand the Christian life. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayerfully seek a mature believer who you respect, and who would be willing to meet with you at least once a week using Phase 1. 2. If you cannot find another believer to personally mentor you, prayerfully read 5 Important Concepts (pg. xxiv), then start through Phase 1 on your own, writing down questions that come to mind. 3. Hopefully a church leader or mature Christian will be able to satisfactorily answer your questions. | Approximately 3 months. |
| I have a one-time opportunity to spend with a believer, for example, on a trip or in a jail ministry, etc. | 1. Prayerfully go through the 5 Important Concepts (pg. xxiv) with the believer. | |

Quick-Start Recommendations

(Additional Resources)

- INTERNET SITE: www.disciplers.org
 - All lessons are free.
 - View the lessons on the website or print and/or download in the *PDF format*.
 - Watch the training videos for self-teaching and to help prepare leaders for mentoring others.
- EQUIPPING THE SAINTS
 - DTI will consider requests to conduct workshops to help train Pastors and Leaders to equip the Saints in their congregation to become disciplers.
 - Local on-going Training Classes conducted in Reno, NV.

(Printing Options)

From time to time we receive questions about different printing methods. Below are some guidelines based on user needs.

- If you are a Church Leader and will be conducting training classes or having small groups:
 - Consider printing the manuals locally.
 - Here in Reno, NV we print about 50 manuals at a time, using a local printer, who produces a spiral bound photocopied manual for approximately \$15.00. (USD)
- If you are an individual and need to print just 1-2 manuals:
 - You can print the entire manual in PDF format, or just the *Phase* you presently need.
 - Print directly from the website or,
 - Download the PDF to your computer to print "on demand" as needed.
 - Some people put the printed manual in a 3-hole binder. This allows for adding note pages or other resources that you may use to help enhance the discipling process.
- Some churches have made photocopies of Phase 1, then added their own personalized cover, and assembled using plastic comb binding.

We have considered an online publisher to make available the Discipleship Manual for interested persons, but that has yet to be finalized. (*as of March 2015*)