

D2 Phase 2 Introduction



The Biblical Stages of Spiritual Growth

Purposes of This Phase

- I. To establish the fact that there is a biblical pattern for discipling people, Matt 28:19-20**

- II. To study that biblical pattern using the example of the Lord Jesus Christ and his disciples, Gen 1:26; 5:3; Col 3:10; John 17:4**

- III. To search our lives to determine how we are progressing in our own spiritual growth**

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I. Stage 1 – Repentance and Faith

A. Repentance defined, Matt 21:28-29

B. Repentance in regard to salvation, Matt 18:1-3, Mark 1:15, Acts 26:20, Luke 3:7-14, Matt 3:1-1, Acts 17:30, 20:21

C. Repentance as a necessary requirement for discipleship, Matt. 21:23-32

D. Repentance and its practical applications

II. Stage 2 – Enlightenment and Guidance

A. The purpose of this stage is to enlighten the disciple as to who Jesus Christ really is and what He has done for them

B. The objectives/goals of this stage, Gal 2:20; Rom 11:36

C. The development of this stage in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:30-34, John 2:11, 1:30-34, John 5:52-59

D. The Practical applications of this stage, Matt 11:28-30, Phil 3:7-11, READ: 1 John (to **know**), John (to **dwell**), Ps 119 to **abide**), then read Gal, Eph, Phil, and Col

III. Stage 3 –Ministry Training and Appreciation of Benefits

A. The personal and practical applications

B. The principles from the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, Matt 4:19; Luke 12:47-48, Matt 25:21-23, Luke 19:17

C. The principles learned by the disciple during this stage, Mark 1:16-18, Rom 10:9; John 3,4; Matt 11:1-6; Mat 8:14-15,16-17, 9:1-8; Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-6

D. The major obstacles in ministry training and how they can be overcome

1. Fear of people, John 15:18-21, 2 Cor 11:26, Gal 2:4, Acts 20:29-30, Eccl 4:9-10, Luke 10:1; 16:10, Rom 6:6-11, Col 3:1-4, 1 John 4:17-18, Heb 13:6, Josh 1:9; Rom 8:31, 2 Tim 1:7

2. Resistance to change, Luke 5:39; 2 Cor 5:17-18

3. Laziness and procrastination, John 4:35, Rom 13:11-14, Eph 5:14-16, Rom 14:12

4. Ignorance, Matt 11:28-30, Eph 3:19, Prov 11:14

5. Conflict of priorities, Eph 4:1, Luke 5:1-11

E. The two major areas of ministry training

- 1. Ministry to the lost – evangelism, John 4:1-26, Mark 2:1-12

- 2. Ministry within the body of Christ, Rom 15:1-3, Mark 9:14-29; 1 Tim 4:12, 1 Thes 2:10, John 13:12-17, Heb 4:14-16, Mark 1:35, Matt 14:22-23, Col 1:9-17, John 17

F. Specific application to the ministries of this church. If I intend to get involved in ministry, how can I do so in the intended structure of this local body of believers?

IV. Stage 4 – Development of Leadership and Government Under God

- A. The nature of this stage – Once people have become involved in ministry, as they grow, some will stand out as leaders within the group. This stage shows how that leadership is developed.

B. The importance of leadership, Rev 3:14-16; Jer 5:30-31; 23:1-4, 2 Tim 2:2; Prov 29:18; Col 1:27-28

C. The selection of leaders, John 15:16; 1 Tim 3, Titus 1, John 6:70-71, Acts 1:15-26

D. The personal applications, 1 Cor 11:1, Acts 6:3, 1 Pet 5:1-3, Acts 2:42, Acts 15

V. Stage 5 – Re-evaluation and Separation

A. The nature of this stage, Col 3:1-4

B. The need of this stage, 2 Kings 2:1-6

C. The results of this stage, John 15:19, Col 3:9-10, 1 Pet 4:1-4, Rom 13:14, Phil 4:19, 1 Cor 9:22, Matt 28:18-20, Eph 3:10-11,21; Phil 3:3; Rom 7:14-25

D. The biblical examples of the stage, Gen 32, Exod 33, Gen 22, John 6:66-71

D. The practical applications of this stage

Stage 6 takes 6 months – just like stage 2

VII. Stage 7 – Consecration and World Vision

A. The nature of this stage

B. The major lessons learned in this stage, Phil 3:3, 1 Cor 2:1-5, 2 Cor 4:5-7, Gal 5:16,24-25, Josh 5:10-12, Phil 2:5; 1 Cor 2:16; Rom 12:2

C. The principles from the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ

D. When the disciple grows to this stage, a natural world vision is produced; he is now equipped to stand on his own and follow God’s leadership anywhere in the world.

VIII. Review and overview**A. A summary of the discipleship process:**

1. Stage 1 – Repentance. A change occurs in one’s life when he trusts Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

2. Stage 2 – Enlightenment. Once that change becomes a reality in his life, the disciple begins learning who Jesus Christ really is and how his life in Christ is different.

3. Stage 3 – Ministry Training. As he learns more about the Lord Jesus Christ, the disciple begins getting involved in the work of the Lord.

4. Stage 4 – Development of Leadership. As the disciple learns and participates more in ministry, he will begin to lead others in the same process.

5. Stage 5 – Re-evaluation and Separation. Leadership in the Lord’s work demand a time of testing to prove the true commitment and motives of the disciple.

6. Stage 6 – Participation in Ministry Leadership. Those potential leaders who stand the testing will then step out and assume their leadership roles, putting into practice the decisions made during their testing.

7. Stage 7 – Consecration and World Vision. Leadership in ministry becomes a lifestyle where the individual is committed and equipped to carry on the work of the Lord without need of any further discipleship on a human level.

B. Biblical examples of a properly completed discipleship process

1. The Great Commission – Jesus Christ and His apostles

In five places: Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:46-53; John 20:21 + 21:15-17; Acts 1:1-9

2. Paul’s final words to Timothy – 2 Tim 4:1-2,5

3. The process of Biblical discipleship is the literal fulfillment of 2 Timothy 2:2

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Self-evaluation
What should I have learned from this section?

1. Give a brief overview of the seven stages of biblical discipleship.

2. Briefly explain the two major purposes of the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Briefly explain how discipleship fits into the overall goals of the church of Jesus Christ.

4. What stage of discipleship do I believe I am in now?

*5. Am I where I should be? _____
If not, why, and how can I get on track? If so, how can I keep on track?*

6. If I am discipling someone else, how can I use this pattern to help me meet their needs better?

Key verses to commit to memory:

2 Timothy 2:2; Psalm 119:105; John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20