

# Would the Real Disciple Please Stand UP?

Samuel H. Nodal

**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19,20) NASB

**We are commanded** (not a suggestion) to go into the world and **make disciples** (not converts) unto the Lord. And then notice, **Teaching them to obey all things**. After someone gets Born Again it is essential that they grow up into Christ. And how are they going to grow up if they don't hear the Word taught by the power of the Holy Spirit? Not discipling a believer after they're Born Again is like a famous race horse in a race. The bell sounds the gates open the horses take off and that famous race horse drops dead right out of the gate. You can also liken it to a baby. Once the baby is born you are responsible for it's well being. You must feed it and take care of it until it grows up into a mature adult. You are responsible for them in the eyes of the Lord.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:**

Eph. (4:11-15)

## ***First, We Need to Recover Our True Identity as Disciples of Jesus Christ***

*This requires careful and prayerful study of what the Gospels and Acts reveal about disciples and discipleship and discovering for ourselves that a **Christian**, a **believer**, and a **disciple** are synonymous, and that a Christian is called to live a life of wholehearted discipleship to Jesus. Tragically many people in churches today believe themselves to be Christians but are not living as disciples of Jesus. Some believe, and others believe that they believe, but have no fruit to show as evidence! The answer is for a person to examine his or her heart and life in light of the gospel message and the call to discipleship and respond accordingly. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to do this when he said;*

**“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”** (2 Cor. 13:5)

### ***What is a Disciple?***

*If you really love God you will become a disciple. Jesus came to make disciples not converts (Church attenders). A disciple is one who loves Jesus with all his heart and follows Him in Word and in Spirit. It is through the Word that we get understanding to know Him and what His will is for our lives, but, it is the Holy Spirit that has the power to transform us into the image of Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18). The Holy Spirit is the power of God that accomplishes His will in our lives. No devil on Earth can defeat you nor deceive you if the Holy Spirit lives in you.*

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:** (Rom. 8:14-16)

*We have a lot of people who are masquerading as Christians. They claim to be Christians but there is no evidence of transformation in their lives. God’s process for a disciple is; Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification: Most Christians live out their lives in Justification, they have no clue as to what is Sanctification.*

### ***True Disciples have a Personal Relationship (fellowship) with Jesus Christ***

*Eternal life is knowing God in an intimate way. Discipleship is a total commitment to God and His Word, laying your life down to follow Him. Read Foxes Book of Martyrs to see what a True disciple really looks like. You can also look at Hebrews chapter eleven.*

**If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

(1 John 1:6,7)

**If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.** (Luke 14:26-30)

*Jesus is not telling you to hate your family and everybody else, that's a total misunderstanding of God's Word (God is Love). He is simply telling us that God must be first in your life. You must love God more than your mate, your family, and even yourself, if you can't do that you cannot be His disciple.*

**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.** (Matt. 6:33)

*Most of today's Christianity is just smoke and mirrors. It's purpose is to get people excited and emotional but has no foundation in the Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit! Their Church is like a football pep rally. The cheerleaders get everybody pumped up before the football game. They shout they sing but don't really know what the will of God is, and much less obey it. Many today claim to be a Christian and they support abortion and same sex marriage in the name of love. These people are evil and they are not Christians. Their actions speak so loud I can't hear what they are saying! A True disciple puts God first over his life, his family, and his job...*

***Jesus asks a Question; Will I find Faith when I Return?***

*Adam and Eve failed God and sinned (faith failed), In Noahs day Jesus had to destroy the entire World with the exception of 8 (Noah and his family), because mens hearts were continually evil (faith failed), and in Abrahams day God could not even find 10 righteous men (faith failed), Jesus is about to return to Earth. Question is, will He find Faith?*

**Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**

(Luke 18:8)

***God has Deposited His Divine Seed in every Believer!***

**Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible** *(The Holy Spirit),*  
**by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.** (1 Pet. 1:23)

*This divine seed within must be protected and nourished to grow. God tells us how to do that in His Word. We must protect this divine seed from the three evil forces that exist on Earth (the world, the flesh, and the devil). These evil forces could forfeit the growth of God's seed within you if not careful. In the natural a healthy seed needs three things to grow strong and vibrant (water, sun, and good soil). Likewise this divine seed needs three things to grow strong and vibrant (meditation, prayer, and worship). It is important that God's seed grow continually because your spiritual development will cause the devil's authority over you to diminish!*

## *Examine the Parable of the Sower*

**The seed that fell on the footpath represents** those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then **the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.** **The seed on the rocky soil represents** those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But **since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long.** **They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.** **The seed that fell among the thorns represents** those who hear God's word, but **all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.** **The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"**

(Matt. 13:18-23) NLT

*Notice, only one fourth of the seeds planted, produced a harvest. Those are not good odds. We must take fruit bearing for the Lord very serious. There are no second chances, the Lord does not play Church! We must finish our calling and finish strong!*

And he that overcometh, **and keepeth my works unto the end**, to him will I give power over the nations: (Rev. 2:26)

**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** (Matt. 7:21)

I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.** (John 15:5-8)

*Notice the Word "**Abide**" God's seed is in all believers but, you must abide in Jesus for the Holy Spirit to make it grow. Eventually with the proper care (meditation, prayer, and worship) that seed will mature and give much fruit unto God. All real ministry is done through the power of the Holy Spirit (Zech. 4:6)! I've seen highly educated ministers give an excellent precise message and no one came to the altar for prayer and salvation, on the other hand, I've seen simple poorly educated ministers give a simple message and the altar got filled with people crying and wanting prayer.*

*It is the moving of the Holy Spirit that convicts the people and brings them crying to the altar. No matter how educated, how emotional one gets, that will not move and convict the heart. The Holy Spirit is the Overseer of God's Church and gives all the Glory to Jesus Christ. It's so sad to see so many ministers today trying to minister in the flesh (not the Holy Spirit). And worst of all, the congregations can't tell the difference. Wow, we really are in the last days (Praise God).*

### ***Friendship with the World Makes You an Enemy of God***

*Most of the Church today is carnal. It trusts on it's own self will, self works, seeks their own lustful desires over the will of God. They are consumed by their own lusts.*

**You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?** (Jam. 4:4,5) NIV

### ***God Wants to Cleanse His Temple***

*You are the Temple of God! In the Old Testament (Jews) the Temple was a building, but in the New Testament (Covenant) you are the Temple of God where the Holy Spirit resides!*

**Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.** (1 Cor. 3:16,17)

**And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; they were sore displeased.** (Matt. 21:12-15)

*Jesus does not change, whether it's the Old or the New Testament Jesus will cleanse the Temple of God! God's Temple is Holy and that cannot change. God desires spiritual Christians Not carnal Christians. God wants to cleanse us of self righteousness, carnality, and the world. If Money is used in the wrong way, God calls this a den of thieves.*

*We can spiritualize the way we use money incorrectly to lie and cheat in the ministry.  
Using God Himself for our own personal gain.*

### ***God Wants a House (Temple) of Sacrifice***

*It's the sacrifice that brings the Glory and the Power of God! We are living sacrifices unto the Lord. You are the Temple of God and the house of sacrifice. Our lives are offered unto Him to use as He is well pleased, Corporately and Individually. Jesus was God's Sacrifice for our sins. He willingly went to the Cross for us, so how much more should we sacrifice our lives to Him who loved us and died so that we might live?*

**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

(Rom. 12:1,2)

**Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.** (Luke 22:42)

### ***God Wants to Fill His Temple with Glory and Power***

“Now, my God, may your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. “Now arise, O LORD God, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, may your saints rejoice in your goodness. O LORD God, do not reject your anointed one. Remember the great love promised to David your servant.” **When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the LORD above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, “He is good; his love endures forever.” Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God.** (2 Chr. 6:40-7:5) NIV

*The Blood of Jesus that was shed on Calvary's Cross is the Real Christianity. What we have in the Church today is a philosophy of Christianity substituting for the real thing and deceiving ourselves. The Cross of Christ is our Glory! That's why the Church today is so powerless, it has neglected the Cross. The religious Church is full of bells and whistles but no Glory and Power.*

**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.** (1 Cor. 1:18)

**But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** (Gal. 6:14)

*Judgement Begins in God's House (Temple)*

**For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

(1 Pet. 4:17)

*Seek God's Face Not His Hand! (Give me this, give me that etc...)*

*If My People will Humble Themselves; Pray and Seek My Face (Turn from Wickedness)*

Then **if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart "As for you, if you faithfully follow me as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, then I will establish the throne of your dynasty. For I made this covenant with your father, David, when I said, 'One of your descendants will always rule over Israel.' "But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey the decrees and commands I have given you, and if you serve and worship other gods, then I will uproot the people from this land that I have given them. I will reject this Temple that I have made holy to honor my name. I will make it an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations. And though this Temple is impressive now, all who pass by will be appalled. They will ask, 'Why did the LORD do such terrible things to this land and to this Temple?'**

**“And the answer will be, ‘Because his people abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who brought them out of Egypt, and they worshiped other gods instead and bowed down to them. That is why he has brought all these disasters on them.’”** (2 Chr. 7:14-22)

*Pay close attention to what God is telling us here! Remember in the Old Testament God’s Temple was a Building, but in the New Testament (Covenant) we are the Temple of God. Both Corporately and individually! God does not change, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8)! Whatever He said in the Old Testament must apply to the New. When God said “I have Chosen this Temple and set it apart to be Holy, a place where my name will be honored forever, He is talking about you and me! He also said, “I will always watch over it for it is dear to my heart.” And finally, He said, “but if you abandon me and disobey my decrees and commands, and if you serve and worship other gods, then I will uproot you from the land.” “I will reject the Temple I have made holy to honor my name.” “I will make you an object of mockery and ridicule!” And all who pass by will ask; “Why did the Lord do such terrible things to His Temple?” And the answer will be: “Because the people abandoned the Lord, and they worshipped other gods instead and bowed down to them.”*

