

THE DISCIPLESHIP INSTITUTE



The Learning Resources

The five lessons and the associated books are as follows:

- **LESSON 1: 'INSTEP WITH JESUS'** (with the: 'InStep With Jesus Study Guide') The vision for discipleship, by Dr. Robert E. Dotson
- **LESSON 2: KNOWING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST:** 'Prayer and The Royal Priesthood,' by Dr. Robert E. Dotson
- **LESSON 3: THE NEW COMMANDMENTS OF LOVE:** 'The God-kind of Love Is Tough' by Dr. Robert E. Dotson
- **LESSON 4: THE BELIEVER'S NEW LIFESTYLE IN CHRIST:** 'Only To Be More Like Jesus' by Dr. Robert E. Dotson
- **LESSON 5: WINNING SOULS AND DISCIPLING BELIEVERS IN CHRIST:** 'These Are They Which Testify' by Dr. Robert E. Dotson

Introduction to the Institute

What is The Church Growth and Discipleship Institute Study Guide?

- *The Study Guide is designed to train new and long-standing believers to know who they are in Christ,*
- *To understand the power of their prayers, and learn how to become more like the Jesus*
- *Who walked as a human in the world He created and loved so much that He left His eternal place with the Heavenly Father to show His Love for the world.*

Lesson 1: THE INSTEP VISION

- *ALL CHRISTIANS ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH,*
- *REBORN INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AFFIRM BY THE WORD OF GOD,*
- *MADE PROCLAIMERS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.*

The Learning Process

- *The study guide follows the process of first discovering who we are in Christ (1 Peter 2:5,9),*
- *Followed by an understanding of the love of God and how He prepares the disciples to do His Will.*
- *Each module is a study guide written to deepen the understanding of the associated books.*
- *The goal, therefore, is to learn and practice the concepts outlined in each book, which are directly taken from the Bible.*

The Institute Vision

The 'WHY'

- *Why each module establishes a revelation to the learner critical to the disciple's growth in The Kingdom of Heaven.*
- *In effect, the training is a calibration of the power of the Holy Ghost born into every believer.*
- *Salvation is the redemptive work of Christ at Calvary.*
- *John 3:16 is why believers are saved, and only through the Love of God and His Gift of His Only Begotten Son are we in Christ.*
- *All that we are and all that we become in the Kingdom is a function of the redemptive work of Jesus.*

Redeemed

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “***But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,***”

- *You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- *All we must do is submit to Christ's commandments and love one another (John 22:37-40).*
- *The God Kind of Love is the most potent force in the universe. The Word of God reveals His Mind to believers; we are His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20).*
- *When He calls us witnesses, it means much more than our testimony but what we lay down for His glory, our lives (1 Peter 2:24).*

The InStep Vision Model



- *The In Step vision for discipleship is based upon Christ's vision*
- *He declared it in Matthew 4:19 when He called His first disciples and said to them,*
 - **"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."**
- *Jesus reproduced Himself in His Apostles and through them.*

The In Step model illustrates the vision for discipleship

- *The foundation or **Stage I in yellow** is The Gospel of Jesus Christ, **John 3:16**, which is referred to as the "**WHY**" of our **SALVATION**: the love of God for the world when He sent His only begotten Son into the world to die for the world's sin, and **Romans 10:9**, the "**HOW**" of **SALVATION**, the confession of faith in Jesus Christ.*
- ***Stage II in red** is the fellowship of believers in Christ Jesus.*
- ***Stage III in blue** is spiritual growth and refers to bible study and other developmental ways within which disciples grow spiritually.*
- ***Stage IV in green** is outreach. It refers to all the ways believers reach out spiritually to other members and those outside the church fellowship through the winning souls and invitations to join a fellowship of believers.*

Each of the blocks represents conditions that ultimately result in a spiritually mature disciple

- *The actions are LEARN IT, LIVE IT, GIVE IT (Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives).*
- *Therefore our vision for discipleship at Bethel is simply stated:*
 - **EVERY SOUL A SAINT,**
 - **EVERY SAINT A FELLOW,**
 - **EVERY FELLOW A LEARNER**
 - **EVERY LEARNER A MINISTER.**

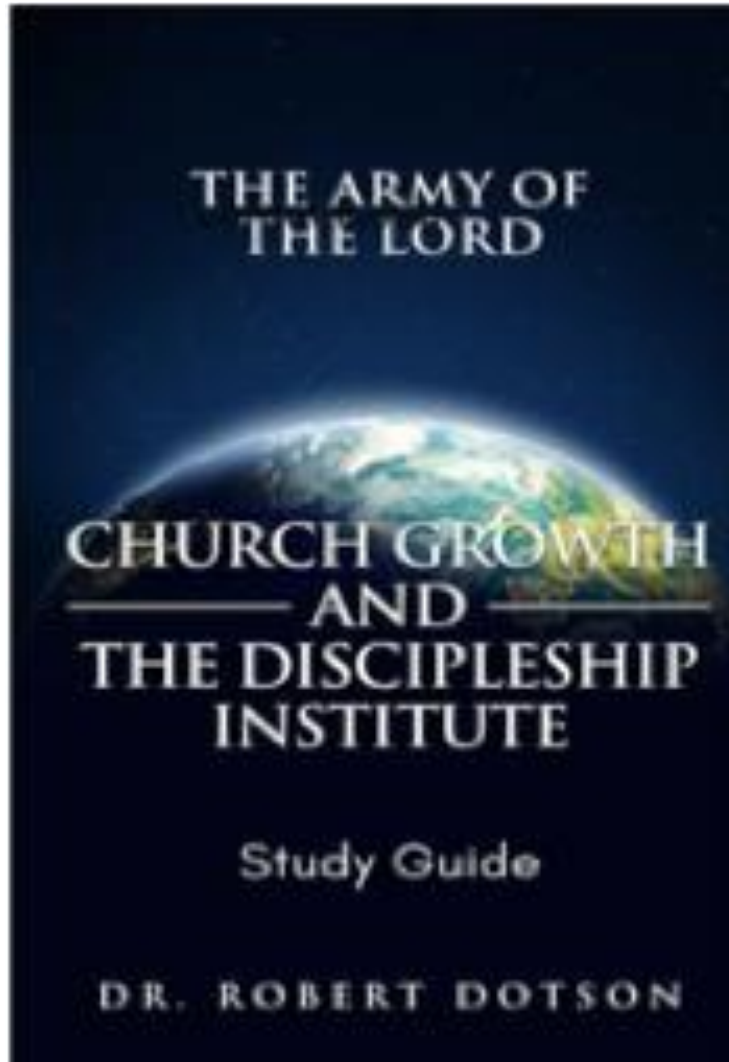
The Anointing of The Holy Ghost

Jesus said in Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

- *You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem,*
- *And in all Judea and Samaria,*
- *And to the end of the earth.”*
- *All we must do is submit to Christ's commandments and love one another (John 22:37-40).*
- *The God Kind of Love is the most potent force in the universe.*
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First, we have to know who we are in Christ. In the process of being disciples, understanding the believers' priesthood

- *The Kingdom is required to do the work of the mission of Jesus.*
- *Believers are made royal priests (1 Peter 2,5 and 9,10) because we are...*
 - *Living stones are being built up a spiritual house,*
 - *A holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ...*
 - *A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,*
 - *His special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*
 - *Who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."*
 - *This is the legacy our Master leaves us; what we do is a function of who we have become.*



The Study Guide: Lessons 2-5

**The Discipleship
Learners' Institute
is their salvation by
the Blood of Jesus
Christ, Him
crucified, buried,
and resurrected
from the dead on
the third day.**

Lesson 2

THE PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS IN CHRIST

- *Because of His legacy to all believers in Christ, we are given a tool more powerful than any weapon Satan can use against,*
- *The Kingdom of God: PRAYER! As James Montgomery penned, “ **Prayer is the soul’s sincere desire, unuttered or expressed, the motion of a hidden fire, that trembles in the breast.**”*
- *Prayer is the most important ministry of Christ throughout His earthly ministry.*
- *Prayer’s power was so evident to His disciples that they asked Him to teach them how to pray.*
- *The last high priest, John the Baptizer, led them to pray so they knew its power. Why don’t more*
- *Christians today recognize the incredible power of prayer?*

What is prayer?

- *How is it possible that many believers have yet to learn what prayer is?*
- *I am convinced that if believers understood prayer, the Kingdom of God would experience unbelievable power in the world around us.*
- *Indeed, if asked, most believers would say prayer is direct communication with God, and that, of course, is correct.*
- *Prayer is much more than communicating with The Almighty. In John 17:15-21, Jesus defines prayer in a more personal way.*

The words of our Christ in John 17 are powerful.

- *We communicate with Him through the indwelling of The Holy Ghost and are one with Him.*
- *When I pray in tongues, I pray in a cryptic language that only God can respond to; amazing! (2 Corinthians 14:14).*
- *I talk to God about the exact issue needed to get His desired answer.*
- *How can any believer not recognize the power of our prayer?*

Lesson 3

The New Commandment of Love

- *Much of what we think about our relationship with God is expressed by the works we do to the glory of The Almighty.*
- *From James, we know the importance of our lifestyle in Christ, but our works do not measure our relationship.*
- *James 2:14 reads, “**What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?**”*
- ***Can faith save him?”** But James 2:17 reads, “**Thus also faith alone, if it does not have works, is dead.**”*

What does it mean, and where is the power in our religion?

- *When questioned about the commandments, Jesus answered in Matthew 22:37-40 that the ten commandments are combined in just two:*
 - ***"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."***
- *But the sum of the matter from 1 Corinthians 13:13,*
 - ***"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."***

God's Love is tough

- *But God's kind of love is nothing like what we call love. Several words describe love in the Scriptures, but rather than exegete those other words, it would better serve to understand the depth of God's love for all humanity.*
- *The Greek word for God's perfect love is Agape, and that love is unconditional. Unconditional love is impossible for anyone to accomplish in the human condition. Romans 3:10,23-25*

Lesson 4

Becoming More Like Jesus, THE CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

- *Jesus is Lord! **Philippians 2:5-11***
 - *How is there doubt about who Jesus is and His relationship with The Heavenly Father? Hebrews 4:15,
 - **“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”***
- *Not only is Jesus the sinless Son of God, but as the incarnate Messiah and the Savior of the world, we cannot be like Him in His sinless nature and perfection in the Will and Works of The Father.*
- *But He left His legacy, penned by His disciples both during His earthly ministry and after the resurrection and coming of the Holy Ghost.*
- *His life and works are a testimony that we can emulate. In my book, ‘Only To Be More Like Jesus,’ I identify seven ways from the Gospels that believers can be more like Jesus.*

The Seven BE's to be more like Jesus

- ***The Master was SERIOUS about His obedience to The Father, He was LOVING about how He treated all people.***
- ***ANGRY about the world's sin and the religious leaders' hypocrisy. He was always PRAYERFUL, always seeking the Will of The Father. The Master was a PLAIN man in His lifestyle, never pretentious.***
- ***He was the most HUMBLE and truthful man who ever lived because He became a servant where pride had no place.***
- ***Jesus was REAL, speaking only what pleased His Father and without fear on His way to the cross.***

Lesson 5

A Manual for Discipling Believers

- Discipleship is the final step in growing believers from salvation to maturity in Christ. Jesus said in *John 5:39*,
 - ***“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”***
- Without question, the Bible is a testament to Jesus, first as the promise of the coming Messiah to the incarnation of The Son of God. Jesus said in Acts 1:8...
- The goal of the Kingdom of God is to be a witness of Christ on earth. In John 17,

- *Jesus prays that God protects believers as they are in the world but have become occupiers of the world.*
- *The purpose of the Kingdom of God is to represent Him to the world Jesus loved so much, He came into the world and bore its sin by crucifixion at Calvary.*
- *The book is a manual teaching **Three Principles of Discipleship**:*
 - ***First**, to know The Mind of God;*
 - ***Second**, to win souls for Jesus;*
 - *And **third**, to disciple believers in Christ.*

The Church Growth and Discipleship Study Guide

- *I developed the discipleship process over thirty years of ministry as God called me to train believers in preparation to carry His gospel to the world around them.*
- *I don't claim any new revelation for developing believers but another way to accomplish the discipleship goal.*
- *The five books I have written are the product of my work in several church congregations where I served in support of pastors with the same goal of disciplining the children of God to win souls, to teach through the fellowship of the saints, to learn the principles of discipleship and become witnesses of the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Supplemental
***‘Essentials to Start, Build,
Refresh Children’s Ministry’***

By Pastor Rosemary Winbush