

THE LORD'S HOUSE

[Ephesians 5:14-17 KJV] 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Awakening from:

- **Religious form, preconceived ideas, and preplanned services**
- **Inconsistent “love affair” mentality toward Jesus and his church to a faithful “loving marriage relationship”**
- **The “burden” of having to “do something for God” to love us to the knowledge that it is a blessing to serve God because he already loves us**

Four stages in the process of “awakening”

- 1) **Believer** – Making the choice to believe God, his Son JESUS and his Word – the BIBLE
- 2) **Disciple** – Making the choice to become a student of JESUS to the point of following him and learning from his teaching and example of life
- 3) **“Christ-ian”** – Choosing to submit to the Holy Ghost to the point of pushing down our fleshly pride and desires and allowing his anointing and power to flow through us as a part of our life.
- 4) **Servant** – Learning to apply the principles of JESUS’ teaching to the point of placing more and more of our trust in him, his word and ways of life.

A “disciple” in the Greek Strong’s means - from [G3129](#); a learner, i.e. pupil:—disciple. – To gain understanding – To have the light of knowledge about a subject or question

When we “Awake” Christ will give us the light of knowledge. Then we can understand God’s will and plan for our lives and how to have a true relationship with God, our creator.

The Holy Bible shows a distinction between being a believer and being a Disciple. Many people out of the multitudes who flocked to hear Jesus Christ’ Teaching became believers. However, when Jesus revealed His requirements for Discipleship, a large number of these same believers turned away from following Him. The outcome was that only a few Disciples remained true to Jesus. We should not let the smallness of the group of Disciples who followed Jesus discourage us from pressing on into deeper depths and higher heights with our LORD. On the contrary, we should be challenged! The fact that more dedication and submission to the Master is required of a Disciple than is expected of one who is merely a believer indicates that the Blessings and Rewards for true Discipleship far surpass what the person who is a mere believer can attain. The word *disciple* means a learner, a student, a pupil. A Christian Disciple is a pupil who is attentive to Jesus Christ because he wants to receive Instruction from Him. A true Disciple behaves in such a way as to gain the *Ear* of his Instructor, and a true Disciple sits at Jesus’ Feet in order to learn all His Teachings, Examples, and Precepts so that he can follow in His Footsteps! The word *disciple* also means discipline. A true Disciple sits at Jesus’ Feet so that he can be instructed concerning God’s Rule, Order, and Methods of Government — the Method and Rules for maintaining order and regularity in the Word and prayer. From his Teacher, a true Disciple learns about God’s Methods of Punishment, which

include suffering, adversity, and various forms of poverty. (When believers have not surrendered to Jesus Christ to become a Disciple, the sharpest discipline administered by adversity teaches them nothing.). A true Disciple sits at Jesus Christ's Feet, fellowshiping with Him in the Word and prayer; and, there, the Disciple is taught how to be in subjection to his Teacher and come under His perfect Commands. Therefore, the true Disciple comes through sufferings, adversity, or poverty enriched, enlightened, and increased in spiritual development. A true Disciple is willing to be trained or taught according to the Love of his Teacher. Just as a master sword-maker hones the sword's blade to perfection, so God uses the pain and adversity of daily life to help grind the Sword-Disciple to a smooth, fine finish. God uses the cares and struggles of life to beat the Sword-Disciple into the Form and Image of his Teacher, Jesus Christ.

The Teachings of the Master, Jesus Christ, correct the baseness of worldly passions; strengthen the heart with His Divine Principles; enlighten the mind with His Glorious Knowledge; and fill the spirit with overflowing joy and abundant satisfaction.

Knowing this we can see why it would behoove us to not only look at this subject but also make it an endeavor of life. Therefore, we have listed the twelve basic disciplines of the Christian walk below so that you can begin to study them and apply them to your life. We have already begun the next installment on this subject and it will be available soon but before we even begin to think about that, I would encourage you to spend time studying these disciplines and pray for God to help understand the reason behind them and help you to work them into your will and way of life.

Awaken yourself to the sight and sounds of JESUS CHRIST in the Holy Spirit and thus allow him to give you the light of understanding the power and blessings that come through discipling our lives in these twelve areas.

- I. **Praise and Worship** - learning to live a life that recognizes God as the sovereign Lord over your life and the world around you. This all begins by giving the sacrifice of energy in the different forms of demonstration and Holy Spirit expression. **1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**
Scriptures: I Chronicles 16:9, Psalms 100:1-5, Matthew 28:17, Philippians 4:4, Ecclesiastes 5:18-19
- II. **PRAYER** – learning to have a true relationship with God your heavenly Father through communication – a dialogue- not a monologue – **scriptures:** Revelation 8:3, I Chronicles 16:11, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 6:5-16, Matthew 26:41, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18, John 16:24, I Thess. 5:17, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 4:2
- III. **BIBLE READING/ STUDY** – Seeking the mind and will of God for how to live our lives and receive strength and encouragement from the Father's heart by studying and taking to heart what the Father has said in his word to mankind. Anyone desiring to be a disciple of JESUS would study to find all they can about their teacher. **Scriptures: Psalms 107:20, Psalms 119:11,50,82, Psalm 147:18, Psalms 148:8, Proverbs 6:23, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12**
- IV. **MEDITATION** – To think on and muse over a scripture, the Name of the LORD or, a revelation the Spirit is showing you. This is NOT to blank the mind like other worldly or even demonic methods of meditation. Rather it is the processing of information from the scriptures by repeating them or pondering on them. **Scriptures:** Psalms 1:2, Psalms 39:3, Psalms 63:6, Psalms 104:34, Psalms 119:148, Psalms 143:5, Joshua 1:8, Psalms 4:4, I Timothy 4:15
- V. **CONFESSION/ REPENTANCE** – Simply realizing our living and being is in the LORD. Living in such a way that you realize you are not perfect and are therefore willing to recognize faults and short coming.

This includes sins (omission, commission, ignorance & rebellion) before the Lord God and before your fellow man. **Scriptures:** Proverbs 28:13, I John 1:8-10 – being accountable to God and man

- VI. SOLITUDE/REFLECTION / REST** - The opposite of “busyness” This is the process of taking time to reflect and remove any “thing or actions” in life that are causing an unbalanced approach to serving the Lord. Cutting out the obstacles that are holding us back from experiencing the “abundant life” JESUS desires for us to live. Jesus went up into the mountain alone. There alone he saw the disciples on the sea. Slowing down and taking the time to look, seek, and process the spiritual life around us. **Scriptures:** Matthew 11:28, Leviticus 23:3 Genesis 2:3, John 10:39-42, Mark 6:47, Luke 9:18, Luke 6:12
- VII. STEWARDSHIP** – This is managing all the gifts the Lord has given into our charge. It is not just giving. Good stewardship is the “balancing” of all the resources the Lord has given you. This includes: 1) Time 2) energy (spiritual & natural life) 3) Thoughts (creativity) 4) money – As we know, in order for something to balance it has to have a way that it gives and receives. Therefore, this is not only giving Tithes, and offerings but managing money by working, saving, not being slothful or lazy and not being to spend thrift or selfish and stingy. And, recognizing God as the giver of all good things and therefore having an attitude of gratitude. **Scriptures:** Luke 12:42-43, Titus 1:7, Proverbs 22:29, Mal. 3:8-12, Acts 20:3, Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:15
- VIII. FASTING**- Disciplining our natural bodies. **Scriptures:** Luke 5:35, Matthew 4:2-4, Matthew 6:16-18, Matthew 9:14-15, Joel 1:14 & 2: 15
- IX. COMMUNITY/CHURCH ATTENDANCE**- Making relationships that help you to grow in the love of Christ is one of the greatest gifts God has for us. Developing community by being faithful in worship and fellowship is the only way to receive the light of this powerful revelation. This makes us accountable to the LORD and to each other. Just like “iron sharpens iron” (Prov. 27:17) these relationships cause us to grow in Christ. **Scriptures:** Hebrews 10:24-25 – being in community with other believers prevents the spirit of bitterness and unbelief from taking root. John 17:21 – It is also, JESUS heart and prayer. Acts 2:42, Luke 4:16, Acts 13:14, Matthew 12:9
- X. SERVING** – This goes hand -n-hand with community – When we live in community and “Do Life” with other believers we learn how to accept one another and therefore we learn to not walk in condemnation toward ourselves. [Mat 22:39 KJV] 39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Jesus said that the greatest among his disciples will serve. Leadership in the Kingdom of God is from a place of serving on another, not expecting someone to serve you. **Scriptures:** Colossians 3:23-24, Matthew 23:11, John 13:15, I Peter 4:10, Mark 9:35, Acts 16:33, Luke 10:33
- XI. Evangelism** – It is the natural order of progression that when you see the light, joy, honor and blessing that comes from being a disciple, worshiper and lover of JESUS that you desire for everyone to have that same experience. **Scriptures:** Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19-20, II Peter 3:9,
- XII. FORGIVENESS**- unforgiveness holds us in a trap that prevents us from experiencing the love and blessings of God. There is a light of blessing that comes with the discipline of forgiveness. Offences come but forgiveness opens a door of knowing Christ love beyond anything in this world. The Lord is merciful and is faithful to forgive us if we confess and repent. I John 1:9, Psalms 103 :3-4, Acts 5:31, Luke 23:34 – Matthew 6:14, Acts 13:38, Mark 11:25, Luke 17:1-4, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13