

An Invitation to Discipleship

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Pastor Harrison Taylor

Then he called the crowd to him along with his *disciples* and said: "Whoever wants to be my *disciple* must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? Mark 8:34-37, NIV

Disciple *n.* mathētēs, "a learner," from manthano, "to learn" (both from math-, the "mental effort needed to think something through"-occurs 261 times in the New Testament

"a disciple, or apprentice, is simply someone who has decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is."- Dallas Willard

Discipleship is *Intentional*: Carrying a Cross, Building a Tower & a King at War

- Luke 14:27-33

"I can't just wake up on the morning of our anniversary and wing it. Far too many people are winging it in their discipleship to Jesus. You will not drift into a life with God any more than you will drift into a good marriage or accidentally stumble into mastery of a craft. It will require decision, commitment, sacrifice, habit, and fidelity through the ups and downs of life. It will require a choice architecture strong enough to carry you beyond the honeymoon stage and through the long valley to the desired destination. You need a plan."- John Mark Comer

Be With Jesus John 15:1-11

We want to live in a constant state of connection to the presence of God. In this way, we are able to be with Jesus in every moment of our lives.

- Slow down. Abide in the love of Jesus. Order your life in such a way that you are able to discover deep, intimate communion with God. And each day, may we grow closer to our Rabbi, Jesus.
- Open up your life to the flow of the Spirit
- Arrange your days around the practice of the presence of God.

"The first and most basic thing we can and must do is to keep God before our minds. David knew this secret and wrote, "I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will dwell securely" (Ps. 16:8-9, NASB).

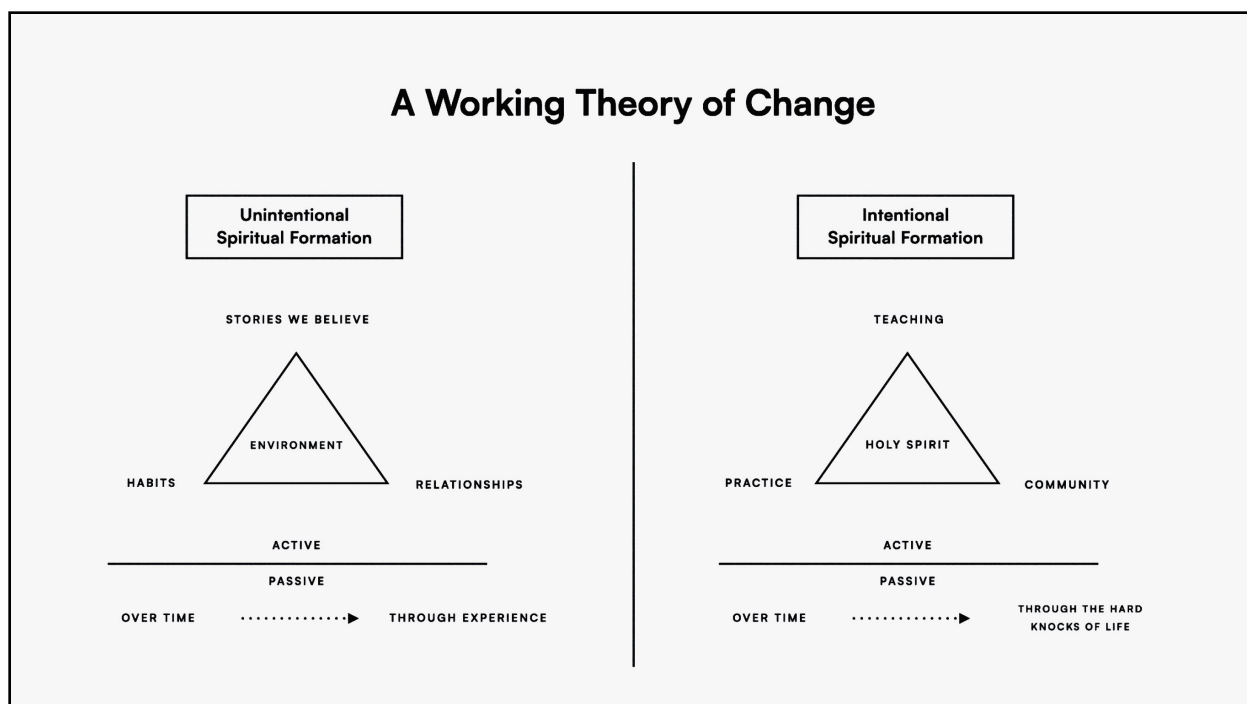
This is the fundamental secret of caring for our souls. Our part in thus practicing the presence of God is to direct and redirect our minds constantly to Him. In the early time of our "practicing" we may well be challenged by our burdensome habits of dwelling on things less than God. But these are habits—not the law of gravity—and can be broken. A new, grace-filled habit will replace the former ones as we take intentional steps toward keeping God before us. Soon our minds will return to God as the needle of a compass constantly returns to the north. If God is the great longing of our souls, He will become the pole star of our inward beings."- Dallas Willard

Become Like Jesus Romans 8:29 , 2 Corinthians 3:18 , 1 John 3:2, Luke 6: 39-40

We are all being formed by something. The things that capture our attention shape us, for better or worse.

- So we must be intentional about who we are becoming. In a world of constant noise and information, we want to allow the voice of Jesus to cut through the chaos.
- His presence and teachings will transform us to become more like him

"Is the great quest, the holy obsession, the vision of my life to have Christ formed in me? Regardless of what I do for God, or how I serve God or where I live or what my job is or whatever. Is the burning inner quest [and cry] of my life: form the Son of God in me, form the image of Jesus in me?" Jon Tyson, *Live No Lies Podcast* | Episode 5



Do What Jesus Did John 13:34-35; 14:12-14

As followers of Jesus, we get to participate in the work that God is doing to renew all things and bring Heaven to Earth.

- Jesus promised his followers that we would do even greater works than he did through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We are called to become our prayers, to live on mission, by loving the world around us.

"The greatest issue facing the world today, with all its heartbreaking needs, is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as 'Christians' will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence."

— Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*

Discipleship Homework

- Review the sermon notes and set aside a specific time each day to pray about what Jesus' call to follow him looks like for your unique stage of discipleship and season of life. End your prayer time by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal who you are becoming.
- Christian philosopher James K.A. Smith says, "Jesus is a teacher who doesn't just inform our intellect but forms our very loves. He isn't content to simply deposit new ideas into your mind; he is after nothing less than your wants, your loves, your longings." Spend time this week prayerfully considering how Jesus has impacted these core areas of your life: wants, loves, and longings. A deep look at these qualities helps reveal who we are becoming.

Pastor Harrison's Suggested Reading

Be With Jesus

- *Discipleship Begins with Beholding* by Samuel Whitfield
- *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence
- *The Good and Beautiful You* by James Bryant Smith
- *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryant Smith
- *On Being Disciples* by Rowan Williams
- *The Gift of Being Yourself* by David Benner
- *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer

Be Like Jesus

- *You Are What You Love* by James K.A. Smith
- *Renovation of the Heart* by Dallas Willard
- *Invitation to a Journey* by M. Robert Mulholland
- *The Deeper Journey* by M. Robert Mulholland
- *Surrender to Love* by David Benner
- *Beautiful Resistance* by Jon Tyson

Do What Jesus Did

- *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer
- *The Spirit of the Disciplines* by Dallas Willard
- *The Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster
- *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools* by Tyler Staton
- *The Great Omission* by Dallas Willard