



380 S. Rosemead Blvd  
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For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8: 5—14

Sundays

945 AM  
Heart  
Preparation  
1000 AM  
WORSHIP

Discipleship is a command. We have been ordered to “Go and make disciples!” In the process of being discipled and making disciples we become more intimate with God. . . And intimacy with God assures us of God’s presence in our life. . . And in God’s presence we can become distinguished.

More often than not people come to Christ because of what they see in us — when they see peace and restedness in our demeanor amidst the turmoil and trials of this world, we become attractive to them — and they begin to ask — what do they have that I don’t? This is how we call people to be discipled.

But why make disciples? Because this is the only God-prescribed way to bring about salvation. The question then that follows is: can we do this on our own? Can we have transformed lives on our own effort? Can we effect change in the world around us by our own actions? Can we become the hope of a lost and broken down world?

The answer is in Romans 8:5-14. By our own efforts and actions it will be impossible to change and have transformed lives . . . Because it is only the Holy Spirit who can instigate this transformation in us. It is only the Holy Spirit that can see us through the changes. And it is only the Holy Spirit who can bring us to the completion of God’s plan for us.

When we think only of ourselves (v5) and allow our minds to be ruled by our desires (v6), we fight against God and we disobey His laws (v7). This is not pleasing to God. And when He is not pleased with us, His presence is absent from our lives — and we cannot claim that we belong to Christ (v9). Allowing ourselves to be governed by our appetites — we give in to the constant demand of the flesh to constantly have MORE and have it NOW. This is the same as allowing ourselves to be governed by SIN. Selfishness, pride, greed and lust — this will all lead to our death (v6).

#### Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays

700 pm  
1102 E Swanee Lane  
West Covina, CA

Thursdays

730 pm  
2617 N Parish Place  
Burbank, CA

Fridays

700 pm  
5124 Ashworth St  
Lakewood, CA

We find hope and comfort in verse 10 which tells us that as long as we have Christ in us, we are alive. . . That when God accepted us in Christ Jesus, He is committed to raise us to life in His Spirit. When we accept Jesus' invitation to 'Come, follow Me and I will make you. . .' we are opening ourselves to the invitation to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. . . Which in essence is allowing ourselves to be disciplined by the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to work in us and through us to disciple others.

At the same time, we have been called to a discipleship with each other — discipleship which starts with friendship but with a definite vision in mind. That through this friendship we build each other up to become more like Christ through understanding and practicing these four pillars:

1. Supreme love of God (Matthew 10:37-40)
2. Study and Devotion to God's Word ( John 8:31)
3. Self Denial (Luke 9:23)
4. Christ-like love (Matthew 22:39)

*Bear in mind that this is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives — because it is He who changes hearts and transforms lives. He alone can equip us, teach us, remind us, convict us, help us, lead us, reveal to us, and counsel us to develop unconditional and sacrificial love . . . To make us humble and selfless . . . And to mold us into what God wants us to become.*

Our appetites, our desires, our tendency to sin has to be curbed and re-framed. How can we say no to our FLESH and yes to the Spirit?

1. Recognize how sin works (James 1:14-15)
2. Identify your spiritual "soft spots" (Jeremiah 17:9)
3. Confess and repent when you sin (Psalm 32)
4. Turn from sin within the first 5 seconds of the temptation (Proverbs 4:15)
5. Don't deal with sin on a superficial level get to the heart (Jeremiah 6:14)
6. Starve sin by making no provision for it (Romans 13:14)
7. Place hedges between yourself and sin (Proverbs 5:8)
8. Look for the way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13)
9. Fill your mind with good things (Philippians 4:8)
10. Submit to the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:6) and be filled daily (Ephesians 5:18)

FLESH  
Following  
Long  
Established  
Sinful  
Habits

In order for us to be ruled by the Holy Spirit and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, we must:

First — have the Holy Spirit in our life. Ephesians 1:13-14

Second—we must become drunk with the Spirit Ephesians 5:18

Lastly—allow the Holy Spirit to work through us in order to attract others to Christ, to be able to effect a change in this world — in order to instigate a spiritual revival in a lost and fallen world.

Being filled with the Spirit, to be drunk with the Spirit means to be fully and completely controlled by the Spirit. To be so intimate with God that we can feel and hear Him as He teaches us and convicts us. . . as He molds us and conforms us into the likeness of Christ Jesus. When we allow this molding , this transforming into our lives then we allow ourselves to be used by the Spirit in order to touch other people's lives — so that intentionally or unintentionally we become the intervention they need so that they too can experience God's forgiveness and God's love in their lives. That when they look at our lives and see God's peace and presence, they will understand that it is only through the salvation offered by Christ and the work of the Spirit that they too can be raised back to life. This is discipleship. Taking up Jesus' invitation to follow Him and to be disciplined by Him through the Spirit so that He can make us fishers of men.

These are the benefits of being ruled and controlled by the Holy Spirit:

1. We have life and peace . . . Not death and restlessness (Romans 8:5-6)
2. We belong to God and become a child of God . . . Not an enemy of God (Romans 8:14-15)
3. We will not carry out the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16)
4. We will overflow with the fruits of the Spirit: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control** (Galatians 5:22)

Discussion:

1. How did I hear the about the grace of God? Did someone share the Gospel with me?
2. How did I feel when I first experienced God's grace and forgiveness?
3. Since then have I allowed myself to be discipled , transformed by the Spirit into the likeness of Jesus Christ?
4. In what areas of my life am I struggling to allow the Spirit to control?
5. Would I want a Spirit led life? Do I commit myself to being controlled by the Spirit?

## WORKS

### The Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Savior  
 I know for sure all my days are held in your hands  
 Crafted into Your perfect plans  
 You gently called me into Your presence  
 Guiding me by Your Spirit  
 Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life  
 Through Your eyes  
 I am captured by Your holy calling  
 Set me apart  
 I know You are drawing me to Yourself  
 Lead me Lord, I pray  
 Take me, mold me, use me, fill me  
 I give my life to the potter's hand

Are you familiar with this song? This song when used as a prayer — invites the Holy Spirit into our lives to take control over it, to transform us, to fill us with His presence and to use us to make His grace and salvation known. . . Are we ready to make this prayer our own? Are we ready to be completely and fully controlled by Spirit — so that through us, the world can be transformed one life at a time? Are we ready to be molded and kneaded, to be put in fire so that we can be crafted into God's perfect plans for us? Are we ready to give our life to the Potter's hand?

Take a moment and look back at all the commitments you have made throughout this series of intimacy with God — early in the series we started documenting these commitments in our journals — take a moment and look back at all the commitments made. Have we been able to keep our commitments? Have we begun to show changes in our lives? On our own, it is impossible to see any transformation in our lives but when we are filled with the Spirit, when we become drunk in the presence of God — only then can this be possible. Because it is when we dwell in His presence that we allow ourselves to be set apart for His use, for His glory. . . And this is what makes us distinguished.

Let us continue to pray with each other and for each other that God will grant us the grace to surrender our lives completely and fully to the control of His Spirit — so that these truths can become truths applied, and that we can be transformed into the image of Christ Jesus.



And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 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."

Matthew 28:18-20

- \* Pursuing intimacy with God delights God. And when God is delighted with us, we will experience His presence in our life.
- \* In His presence, we are protected and provided for thus making us distinguished. Setting us apart for His purpose.
- \* His purpose for us is Relationship. A relationship with Him and a relationship with others who also have been distinguished and set apart. This is **Friendship with a Vision**.
- \* DISCIPLESHIP is our marching order. To be discipled and to disciple.
- \* Discipleship is the process of bringing people to Jesus Christ (BELIEVE) and building them up (GROW) in the faith towards Christ-likeness (DISCIPLE), for the purpose of spiritual multiplication (MULTIPLY) resulting in the glory of God.

#### **SUPREME LOVE OF GOD**

- \* Matt 22:37 commands us to "Love God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind"
- \* God's love language is OBEDIENCE.
- \* Supreme love of God is about pleasing God. To please God we must obey Him in everything.
- \* God's love for us is selfless and unconditional. He knows our sins will condemn and destroy us so He sent us a Savior, His only son Jesus — so that we can be freed from the bondage of sin.
- \* The only thing He wants from us is for us to love Him. To obey His commandments. To surrender our lives to His will.

#### **STUDY & DEVOTION TO GOD'S WORD**

- \* Jn 8:31 tells us that for us to become Jesus' disciples, we must abide in Him
- \* The Bible is God's love letter to us. It gives us an understanding of His nature, His character and His love. It also tells us what He requires from us so that we can please Him.
- \* When we study and live out the Word of God in our lives in OBEDIENCE to His commands, we are pleasing
- \* Abiding is to live moment by moment in OBEDIENCE to God's word

#### **SELF DENIAL**

- \* Lk 9:23 tells us that for us to be able to follow Jesus, we must deny ourselves and take up cross daily
- \* Self denial is relinquishing control of our lives over to God. To deny our human desires and nature and allowing the Spirit to take control, to transform us so that we bear fruits that is edifying to those around us and pleasing to God.
- \* Who we are is defined not by what is innate in us, but rather we should be defined by who we are in Jesus Christ.

#### **CHRIST-LIKE LOVE**

- \* Matt 22:39 commands us to "love our neighbor as yourself"
- \* We look at Jesus' illustration in the story of the Good Samaritan. In the story, the Samaritan chose to be different. He chose to stop, be inconvenienced and to use his resources to help them man. He even went the extra mile to make sure that the man was cared for until he was fully recovered.
- \* This is what is expected of us: that we are able to deny ourselves and be able to share Christ's love to our neighbors. This is what God commands us to do.
- \* When we do what is out of character for us, when we go out of our comfort zones to do the Lord's bidding — we are able to share the blessings, the grace and the love we have received from the Father to those around us, even to we think are unlovable and deserving. When we OBEY in this, we are pleasing God . . . and when God is pleased, He is with us. When He is with us, we are protected, we are provided for. . . And this will set us apart and make us distinguished. So that all those who look at our lives will see Jesus' love and know that we are His children.