

Discipleship means to abandon everything for Christ  
To abandon everything forces to depend on Christ  
A disciple may take advantage of Christ's achievements

## ABANDONING

### DISCIPLESHIP MEANS TO ABANDON EVERYTHING

**Jesus teaches about abandoning in several occasions:**

- Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Matt 10:37
- The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25, Matt 10:39, Matt 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, Luke 17:33
- One thing you lack, go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. Mark 10:21
- The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matt 13:44
- The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matt 13:45

Because of this, you should carefully think if you really want to be a disciple or not. If you don't think it all the way to the end, you might end up like the one with his building project described in Luke 14. Paul did not start explaining Christ's words, but he simply obeyed them and said: Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ (Phil. 3:7-8)

Abandoning everything for Christ brings blessings both in this time and in eternity. A Christian who does not give up everything for Him, will be weak, stumbling, halfhearted

and dissatisfied in his Christian life. On the other hand, a Christian who has abandoned everything is courageous, balanced and victorious in his Christian life, because a person who has nothing must depend on Christ and His achievements. If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple... Suppose one of you wants to build a tower... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

**Luke 14:25-35** see also **Matthew 10:32-39**

Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life." **Luke 18:28-30**

### ABANDONING FORCES TO DEPEND ON CHRIST

Our spiritual life blossoms if we feed it and seek God's face. Throughout history, God's men and women have known that and that's why they daily spend hours in praying, reading and studying the Word of God whole days. They have been singing worship songs while others were still sleeping. That is the reason they are strong in the Lord, That is the reason they have a good conscience when they encourage others to serve the Lord with their whole heart. Those men and women of God sow to the Spirit, they concentrate on knowing Jesus. Like Paul, they have learned that their inner being is thirsty after God. And they do everything to satisfy that thirst even when the enemy tried to fight back.

Again this is about sowing to the Spirit (Gal 6:8) and about concentrating on the Christ-reality (Col 2). A Christian who has given up everything, understands that he must totally depend on Christ. He constantly seeks God's face and His presence. He understands that his own achievements are nothing but he considers it all rubbish compared to what Christ is offering

Paul confessed that that he must totally depend on Christ. He said that he does not even have ability think, but that too comes from God (2Cor 3:5-6 KJV). To the Philippians

Paul wrote that it is God who in us to will and to act according to his good purpose. (Phil 2:13). Hebrews 13 writes that only the God of peace is able to equip us with everything good for doing his will (Heb 13:20-21).

Jesus taught clearly that only those who fully depend on him and remain in him will stay spiritually alive and fruitful: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can

bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love." (John 15:1-10)

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **John 6:53**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

**Take My yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart. –text**

**The two parts of discipleship are: 1) total commitment to Christ (I am crucified in Christ nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me); and, 2) total submission to Christ (taking on the yoke)**

## **A DISCIPLE MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CHRIST'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

**A** Christian must suck life and nourishment from Christ. He must seek how to take advantage of Christ's life. Like a parasite cannot live outside or apart from it's host, so cannot a Christian live apart from Christ.

**Because we do not have life in ourselves, we must depend on Christ and on His life. He offers us all the things we need in our Christian life:**

**Hebrews 3:14 - Christ**

**Hebrews 6:4 - Holy Spirit**

**Hebrews 12:10 - His holiness**

**1 Peter 4:13 - Christ's sufferings**

**Philippians 1:7 - God's grace**

**Philippians 4:13 - I can do everything through Him who gives me strength**

**1 Corinthians 10:16 - the blood and the body of Christ**

**2 Peter 1:3-4 - He gives us everything we need for life and godliness**

### **A Disciple may take advantage on Christ's achievements**

- disarm the devil, **Jesus did it already on Calvary!**

- defeat the devil, **Jesus did it already on Calvary!**

- look for a victory to come, **the victory is here already!**

- fear the devil, **it is to underestimate the Calvary!**

- settle for loosing, **it is forgetting the power of Jesus' blood**

Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **John 6:53**

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5**

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