



Follower / Disciples

#1 - Believe (John 1:12; 3:16)

#2 - Make Jesus Lord (Romans 10:9-10)

a. Follow Him.

b. Be Led by the Spirit.

#3 - Learn to Love God.

Learn to Love each other.

2 Peter 1:3-11 (NIV)

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:17 (NKJV)

17 Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

It's the "I'm good enough the way I am" - attitude.

Matthew 24:12-13 (NKJV)

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2 - The Antichrist and his kingdom is built on lawlessness.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, [Lovers of self and utterly self-centered - Amp.] lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

SUPER NATURAL



Believers / Followers / Disciples Summary.

A. A Believer is where we're introduced to Jesus being our Savior. It's the beginning of our Christian life. It's the stage where we think living for God is all about us.

B. The Follower is where we're introduced to the concept of Jesus' Lordship. He asks us to do things, and we learn to surrender and submit. Psuche Life begins to really lose its hold in us and we Die to our desires / sin.

C. Discipleship is really the point where the life and death process have firmly taken hold in us. We've learned to repent quickly, surrender, and submit. Zoe Life begins to really take hold in the person and we live for God's will / desires.

Societal / Cultural Differences.

Believers can easily fit into society and the culture. A Believer can be very palatable to the unsaved.

**A Follower is when a Believer turns Radical.
(choosing to give their ALL to God)**

**A Disciple is simply a MORE RADICAL Follower.
(Everything and Everyone is 2nd to what God wants of the person - Period.)**

Comparisons of the two:

1. The cross - Follower: Deny self and take up their cross.

(Learn Submission / Surrender)

Disciple: Carry Cross

(Live in Submission / Surrender)

2. The end result in Relationships:

- a. Follower: Where we learn we must choose between serving God and our Family.

(At Variance, Foes, Enemies, Turn against)

b. Disciple: Hate. (A choice of going a different direction has been made)

- Luke 14:26 > various family members
> addition of: wife and our
own life**

3. Believers don't understand there is a cost to serving God.

Followers are 'Counting' the 'Cost' of serving and deciding if they will submit / surrender.

Disciples have determined to 'Pay' the 'Cost' – no matter how high it is.

4. Possessions and Money.

- Believers think it doesn't really affect their.....**
- Followers are determining how greatly it affects.....**
- Disciples have concluded their..... are ALL Gods.**

5. Believers are learning God's Word / his Voice.

Followers are learning to Submit & Surrender to what God says / his Word.

Disciples simply 'Abide In' - God's Word / his Voice

Scriptural Characteristics of a Follower / Servant.

The process is saturated with death to our Will / Desires.

1. Death to our old nature / flesh.
2. When we are unwilling to die to our fallen nature, we can not be a disciple. (Must be a follower first)

‘To be a Follower / Servant’

- This is the Beginning of our Submission / Surrender and making Jesus - ‘Lord’.

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life (“psuche”) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (“psuche”) for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul (“psuche”)? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul (“psuche”)?

27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

- Self Denial
- The realization we're facing death to the old nature...
- Following is No longer about our will / desires but his.

Matthew 10:32-39 (NIV)

[32] “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. [33] But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

[34] “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. [35] For I have come to turn “‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—[36] a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

[37] “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; [38] and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39] Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Human Relationships coming 2nd is huge to God.

- > v. 32-33: people in general
- > v. 34-38: family relationships

Matthew 8:19-20 (NIV)

[19] Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” [20] Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

Matthew 8:21-22 (NIV)

[21] Another disciple said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” [22] But Jesus told him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

**Principle: You will be asked to break all
religious / church / family
tradition.**

**You will be asked to do something
that will make your family / others
angry.**

He will test you on who's first.

Luke 9:61-62 (NIV)

**[61] Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord;
but first let me go back and say good-bye to my
family.” [62] Jesus replied, “No one who puts
his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for
service in the kingdom of God.”**

John 6:2 (NKJV)

2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

John 6:25-30 (NKJV)

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did You come here? 26 Jesus answered them and said, Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

**27 Do not labor for the food which perishes,
but for the food which to everlasting life, which
the Son of Man endures will give you, because
God the Father has set His seal on Him.**

> Living our life in the Light of Eternity .

**28 Then they said to Him, What shall we do,
that we may work the works of God? 29 Jesus
answered and said to them, This is the work of
God, that you believe in Him whom He sent. 30
Therefore they said to Him, What sign will You
perform then, that we may see it and believe
You? What work will You do?**

Matthew 4:18-22 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Mark 10:17-31 (NKJV)

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? 18 So Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: *Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.*

20 And he answered and said to Him, Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth. 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. 26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? 27 But Jesus looked at them and said, With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible. 28 Then Peter began to say to Him, See, we have left all and followed You.

29 So Jesus answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

> Again: Living our life in the Light of Eternity

John 21:18-23 (NKJV)

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish . 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, Follow Me.

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, Lord, who is the one who betrays You? 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, But Lord, what about this man? 22 Jesus said to him, If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me. 23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?

1 Timothy 6:9-12 (NKJV)

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue (“Follow” - KJV) righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 2:20-22 (KJV)

[20] But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. [21] If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.[22] Flee also youthful lusts : but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

HEBREWS 6

The Peril of Not Progressing

¹Note Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³And this we will do if God permits. ⁴Note For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶if they fall away, * to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. ⁷For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

A Better Estimate

⁹But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this

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rich

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1 Timothy 6:9
But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish

1 Timothy 6:17
Instructions to the Rich
Command those who are rich in this present age not to be

1 Timothy 6:18
Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

James 1:9
The Perspective of Rich and Poor Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

James 1:10

upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

A Better Estimate

⁹But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of * love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹Note And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

God's Infallible Purpose in Christ

¹³For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." ¹⁵And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath

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Hebrews 6:11-12 (KJV)

[11] And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: [12] That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)

[14] Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 13:7 (KJV)

[7] Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

1 Peter 2:18-23 (NIV)

[18] Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. [19] For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. [20] But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

[21] To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

[22] “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” [23] When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

3 John 11 (KJV)

[11] Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Disciple - (G3101)

from 3129; a learner, i.e. pupil:--disciple.

(G3129)

prolongation from a primary verb, another form of which, matheo, is used as an alternate in certain tenses; to learn (in any way):--learn, understand.

The Process of becoming a Follower is Saturated with Death.

The Process of becoming a Disciple is filled with life.

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth , and the truth shall make you free.

-Disciples are past choosing if they will submit / surrender to God's word, Disciples 'abide' in God's word.

-True personal freedom doesn't come until we become Disciples and 'Abide' in the word. (cf. John 15:7)

John 13:35 (NKJV)

[35] "By this all will know that you are My disciples , if you have love for one another."

John 15:8 (NKJV)

[8] “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- > Followers are struggling with / learning to:
 - Obey, Submit, Surrender, Sell it All, Give up their Desires, Die to their own Will/Desires.****
- > The Fruit begins to really show up once we're past that stage of growth in our lives.**

Luke 14:16-35 (NIV)

[16] Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. [17] At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

[18] “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’. [19] “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

[20] “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can't come.’

[21] “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ [22] “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

[23] “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. [24] I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

[25] Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: [26] “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. [27] And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Hate - (G3404)

from a primary misos (hatred); to detest (especially to persecute); by extension, to love less:--hate(-ful).

- same as used in Rom. 9:13 (Jacob and Esau)
 - > Anger (I want something to Stop)
 - > Hate. (Now this is going to Change)

5. v. 17 – when Jesus calls a Disciple / asks a Disciple to do something > they are there NOW.

Matthew 9:14-15 (NIV)

[14] Then John's disciples came and asked him, “How is it that we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?” [15] Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

Disciples mourn to be close to the bridegroom.

Disciples fast to establish / maintain that closeness.

Matthew 10:24-26 (NKJV)

[24] “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. [25] “It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household! [26] “Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

If you are a Disciple, there will be some who say you have demons or are under demonic influence / power.

If that hasn't been said about you, you're probably not a Disciple.

Matthew 12:48-50 (NKJV)

[48] But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” [49] And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! [50] “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”

Disciples have the close family relationship with God.

Followers often are like the rebellious / stubborn teen.

Luke 14:25-35 (NIV)

[25] Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: [26] “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. [27] And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

[28] “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? [29] For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, [30] saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

[31] “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32] If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

[33] In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. [34] “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? [35] It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

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C. Discipleship is really the point where the life and death process have firmly taken hold in us. We've learned to repent quickly, surrender, and submit. Zoe Life begins to really take hold in the person and we live for God's will.

**The way of the faithful is committing to pay the price, even if the cost cannot be known.
Trusting that in the end, it will be worth it.**

Sometimes the cost is dear.