

February 11, 2018

“Deeper – A Journey to Spiritual Maturity”

“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-” 1 Peter 2:2

“Go – It’s Go Time!”

“And then He told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.’” Mark 16:15

A. What is the path to spiritual maturity?

1. Spiritual maturity is developed by obediently following God’s Word.
2. Spiritual maturity is developed by being in relationships.
3. Spiritual maturity is developed by putting into practice the Word of God on a regular basis.
4. Spiritual maturity is developed as we share the Light of Christ with others!

“The intensive research (LifeWay Research) revealed eight attributes of discipleship that consistently show up in the lives of believers who are progressing in spiritual maturity:

1. Bible engagement – Gather/Grow
2. Obeying God and denying self – Gather/Grow
3. Serving God and others – Gather/Give
4. Sharing Christ - Go
5. Exercising faith – Give/Grow
6. Seeking God – Gather/Grow
7. Building relationships – Gather/Go
8. Unashamed to share my faith. – Go”

“Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave His charge: ‘God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:19-20 The Message

B. Each of us, who has received Christ, has a testimony...

“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

“I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

1. Once we were dead in our sin, but now we are alive in Christ. “Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.” Ephesians 2:1

2. Once we had no hope, but now we have hope! “In those days you were living apart from Christ... You lived in this world without God and without hope.” Ephesians 2:12

3. Once we had no purpose, but now we have a rich and full life. “...My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

4. Once we had no promise, but now we have a promise of heaven and eternal life!

“but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20

“And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15

C. Jesus calls us to “Go” but...

“You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.” John 15:16

1. Most Christians believe it is our responsibility to “Go!” “The study conducted by LifeWay Research found 80 percent of those who attend church one or more times a month, believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith...”

2. But, unfortunately many do not! “...but 61 percent have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months.”

3. Many Christians know they need to share their faith. “Despite a vast majority believing it’s their duty to share their faith and having the confidence to do so, 25 percent say they have shared their faith once or twice, and 14 percent have shared three or more times over the last six months.”

4. Many Christians are not even looking or praying for opportunities to share their faith.

“In the study, 21 percent of churchgoers say that outside of church worship services they pray every day for people they know who are not professing Christians. Twenty-six percent say they pray a few times a week. One-fifth (20 percent) say they rarely or never pray for the spiritual status of others.”

D. Our testimony just might make the difference...

“As Jesus was getting into the boat, the demon-delivered man begged to go along, but He wouldn’t let him. Jesus said, ‘Go home to your own people. Tell them your story—what the Master did, how He had mercy on you.’ The man went back and began to preach in the Ten Towns area about what Jesus had done for him. He was the talk of the town.”

Mark 5:19-20 The Message

1. The man wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus knew his story was best used in sharing with those in his immediate world.
2. The man wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus knew that life change is the greatest testimony that anyone can have.
3. The man wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus knew that when you share with those closest to you, and they see your “before and after,” nothing speaks louder.
4. The man wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus knew his powerful transformation would transform a difficult area. When Jesus came back, there were large crowds gathered. (Mark 15:30). The area of Decapolis later became a hub of early Christianity...where creeds, translations, and decisions were made that affect us all!

E. So, how will you “Go?”

1. God may be calling you to “Go” to your own family and friends. Make sure you live the life in front of them...that they may see Jesus!

“But Jesus said, ‘No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been.’” Mark 5:19

2. God may be calling you to reach those in your workplace or another area.

“Jesus replied, ‘Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.’” Mark 1:38

3. God may be calling you to a short-term or long-term mission trip to share Jesus with others.

“And then He told them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.’” Mark 16:15

4. God is calling you to “Go!” Don’t miss the opportunity to be Jesus to your world and to let them see Jesus in you!

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“Don’t stay until God tell you to go...
Go until God tells you to stay!”

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