

## The Need for Discipleship

### **DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS BECAUSE WE WERE NEVER MEANT TO WALK THIS JOURNEY ALONE.**

The bible reminds us in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 **“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.”**

Discipleship allows us not only to walk alongside one another, but to help identify each other's blind spots. Throughout Scripture, God often sends someone to help, guide, or walk with a person who has a calling on their life.

Take Moses, for example.

He was chosen. He was leading. But he was doing it without wisdom, without rest and he was quickly burning out.

In *Exodus 18*, Moses' father-in-law Jethro came to visit and spent just one day observing him. All day long, people stood around Moses from morning until evening, waiting for him to settle their disputes.

Jethro saw the weight Moses was carrying and asked:

**“What are you really accomplishing here? Why are you trying to do this all alone, while everyone stands around you from morning till evening?” (Exodus 18:14)**

Moses couldn't see it, but Jethro could.

With fresh eyes and wisdom, Jethro immediately recognized that Moses was on the path to burn out. This wasn't sustainable. He couldn't be everything to everyone *and* still have space to spend intimate time with God.

Then comes the moment of truth in **Exodus 18:17–18**, where Jethro tells him plainly:

**“What you're doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out—and the people too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself.”**

In that moment, discipleship showed Moses how to sustain his calling through wisdom & delegation.

### **DISCIPLESHIP SAVES YOUR LIFE BECAUSE SOMETIMES YOU DON'T KNOW YOU'RE DROWNING.**

We all come from different backgrounds, cultures, and households but when we come to Christ, we're adopted into one body, one Kingdom, and one family.

**Ephesians 2:19 NLT “You are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family.”**

The issue is, many of us bring our coping mechanisms, our family patterns, and our false sense of strength into the Body. We carry burdens we were never meant to carry. And because we've normalized pain, dysfunction, or performance we don't even realize it's harming us.

Proverbs 14:12 tell us "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

**Question:** Is there something you've been carrying alone for so long that you've started to believe it's normal? What if God didn't create you to carry that alone, but to release it through community?

## **THE ENCOUNTER WAS JUST THE BEGINNING**

Paul had the call, but he needed someone to help him start. In Acts 9, after being blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul couldn't see. He was humbled and shaken. And then God sent Ananias, a man Paul had never met, to help him recover and begin his journey. The encounter awakened Paul, but it was discipleship that grounded him.

Because even the most powerful encounters with God still require people to walk with us.

Many of us are like Paul. We get the pulling in our spirit to go deeper in God. We say yes to the call. We accept the invitation to grow. But then what?

The Bible says Ananias *went and found Paul*, laid hands on him, and called him "Brother Saul" (Acts 9:17).

Even though Paul was known for persecuting Christians, Ananias still affirmed his identity in Christ. That moment marked a shift from being known by his past to being claimed by the family of God.

## **DISCIPLESHIP SPEAKS TO WHO YOU'RE BECOMING EVEN WHEN YOUR PAST IS STILL LOUD.**

After Paul regained his sight, Scripture says he *spent several days with the disciples in Damascus* (Acts 9:19)]

He didn't isolate. He didn't rush out alone. **He stayed in community.**

He sat with believers. He listened, learned, shared testimony, and grew roots before spreading the message.

Discipleship doesn't just give you direction it gives you depth.

And although we should be careful not to rush into ministry unprepared, that doesn't mean we have to wait to share what God has done. Think of the woman at the well, after one encounter with Jesus, she ran into the city declaring, "*Come meet a man who told me everything I've ever done.*" (John 4:29)

**That's the fruit of discipleship a boldness to share what Jesus has done and a willingness to lead others to Him. Discipleship gives you roots strong enough to sprout testimonies that multiply into more disciples.**

## YOU'VE BEEN DISCIPLED, NOW WHAT?

Eventually, Paul didn't just receive, he began to pour out. In *Acts 16:1–5*, Paul met a young believer named Timothy, full of potential. Paul didn't just preach to him, he trained him, corrected him, and eventually entrusted him with leadership. And Timothy didn't walk with Paul alone, he had Silas and others in community, sharpening and strengthening him along the way.

Discipleship isn't just about receiving; it's about becoming someone who can pour into others.

The bible reminds us that, *Proverbs 13:20* – “*He who walks with the wise becomes wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*”

Because the truth is this walk with Christ is not easy. Trying to do it alone leaves you vulnerable. But when you're covered in community, your ability to finish well drastically increases.

## ROOTED TO RISE

**Salvation is the seed, but discipleship forms the roots.**

The deeper your roots, the stronger your faith, wisdom, and your ability to stand against the enemy. From those roots come stems and leaves obedience, growth, wisdom, and identity. And in time, you bear fruit: maturity, clarity of calling, and boldness to evangelize.

This is what fulfills the Great Commission.

*Matthew 28:19–20*

“Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

**Who's walking with you?  
And who are you walking with?**

Because the encounter was just the beginning.

