

Lifetime Discipleship: Fact or Fiction?

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I. Introduction.

A. A disciple is not...

1. Someone who has merely had a religious experience.
2. Someone who has merely made a decision in the past. (II Kings 10:30-31)
3. Someone who has plateaued spiritually.

B. The basic idea of a disciple is a learner, which means he grows in knowledge of God, people and truth.

II. Knowledge of God. (John 14:7-11)

A. Knowledge means a love relationship.

B. We should have intimate knowledge of God and Jesus.

C. Shallow and ritualistic knowledge of God is insufficient.

D. One can only know Jesus by saturating his or her mind with His words.

E. One must also watch God at work in the world.

III. Knowledge of people. (John 13)

A. Many do not have a loving relationship with other people because they put on a mask.

B. We cannot love people without a servant heart.

C. There is cleansing of one another through the word. (Ephesians 5)

IV. Knowledge of truth.

A. We are to love all the truth—it is the disciple's great ally. (II Timothy 3:7)

B. We must personally experience the validity of God's promises. (Malachi 3:10, Matthew 15)

C. We must not come to the promises of God with vacillating confidence. (II Chronicles 6:17; Matthew 14:28-29; 11; 13:58)

Application questions:

1. How can one know God personally?

2. How can you increase your service to others?

3. What does it mean to have confidence in the promises of God? Explain.
