

Kingdom Minded Discipleship

by Gbile Akanni

Gbile Akanni emphasizes that discipleship must be kingdom-focused, producing spiritually equipped and mature followers of Christ who actively participate in God's revival and kingdom agenda.

Duration: 1:20:55

Scripture: Genesis 14:11-16, Acts 9

Topics: "Discipleship", "Kingdom of God", "Revival"

Description

In this teaching, Gbile Akanni explores the vital role of kingdom-minded discipleship as the foundation for revival and advancing God's kingdom. He uses biblical typology and practical insights to show that discipleship is a purposeful process of spiritual birth, training, and equipping believers to be effective in God's battle. The sermon introduces the Five C's curriculum—Christ, Character, Charisma, Career, and Courage—as essential elements for raising mature disciples. Akanni challenges listeners to pursue discipleship that results in Christ living powerfully within each believer.

Transcript

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Telephone numbers 0703 03636 59 0703 76811 98 Email address lsmediaatlivingseed.org or visit our website at www.livingseed.org Let us sit back and listen as the servant of God brings forth the Word of Life. We decided to raise an issue of a challenge particularly for those of us who have been in discipleship for quite a while. And I am going to just raise the issues a bit before I bring in my brethren, Brother Charles from Boko and Brother Amos coming to us from Uganda.

Over the years, by the grace of God, as we had kept looking at this Revival, and like I would say, we went from towards Revival, laboring towards Revival for many years. Actually, we started with solemn assemblies, gathering the people to pray and to pursue Revival. Then we went towards Revival in the different lands and people groups, language groups, tribes, nations.

And as God began to move us forward, we began to say, oh, Revival has started. And we moved to Revival labels. And we have been in Revival labels up until now that God has declared to us that hereafter we are going to see Heavens open.

And without any doubt, over the years, discipleship has been our central methodology. It has been our method of prosecuting this Revival. For us, this Revival can only come down not with fanfare, not with plenty of noise.

We are not looking for bright lights and shouting and excitement. Revival for us means that lives are brought to encounter the cross and they are built in the image of Christ. They are grown to conform to the image of our firstborn, the firstborn in the family.

That for us is Revival. As God said to us several times, even in this meeting, He has reminded us that we will not see rain, we will not see noise, we will not see rain, we will not see clouds. Yet, the valley will be full of water.

And He has instructed us to dig ditches. That meant prepare containers, prepare vessels, prepare people who will be the vessels through which this Revival will come. And that has been our focus.

But then we wanted to add a dimension to it this afternoon by focusing our mind on the fact that discipleship is not just an unending classroom teaching program. It's not just to keep doing discipleship like we are doing in discipleship. And it sometimes is looked upon as an unending process.

But God's mind, God has a purpose for discipleship. So we are going to be looking at kingdom minded or kingdom or discipleship for kingdom profit. We want to discuss the fact that all our discipleship is towards a purpose.

God has a program. God has something for each life that God brings to us in discipleship. And for us as disciples and leaders of discipleship classes and even disciples that are beginning to become multiplied and we ourselves are beginning to raise disciples, it must be clear to us that discipleship is with a focus.

And this afternoon we want to look at that curriculum. What is that kind of curriculum that can produce the kind of disciples that will be profitable to the kingdom of God, disciples that is going to, in a sense, meet the needs, meet the yearnings of God who has brought this Revival upon us. I'm going to read this story very quickly from the book of Genesis.

I am not going to speak for too long before I bring in my brothers. But I want us to read Genesis chapter 14 to verse 12. And it's a story that is not strange to any one of us who has been in discipleship for a while.

But in this story we want to use this story as a kind of template for us to see what is God doing with this discipleship program or what is it all about. Let me start reading from verse 12 because of my time. Or verse 11.

And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, all their victuals, and went their way. And they took Lot, Abraham's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. And there came one that had escaped and told Abraham the Hebrew, for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Anna.

And these were confederates with Abraham. Verse 14. And when Abraham heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hoba, which is on the left hand of Damascus. Verse 16, which will be the final verse we are reading. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

If we look at this story as typifying the household of faith, and just as a typology, we are looking at Abraham as our father. Abraham is the head of the family, he has a sudden emergency. His brother was taken captive.

And the Bible says, when he suddenly saw that he has somebody very important to him, Lot, he's lost, he's been captured, and he's about to be slaughtered. The Bible said, he took three hundred servants born in his house, trained by his men, armed them with his weapons, and numbered them into an army, with which he prosecuted the war, and recaptured Lot. This discipleship process that we are in, is because our father has a battle to fight.

Our father has a project. In other parts in the New Testament, the Bible says, the kingdom of God is like a man who is wanting to build a tower. And in another place, it said, it's like a man who wants to fight an enemy.

So, discipleship is not focusless, it's not just an aimless process. Our father has a battle to fight. Our father has a project in mind.

There is a revival to prosecute. There is a kingdom agenda, which disciples are being raised to prosecute. But the disciples that are going to be able to prosecute the project of our father, must be this kind of disciples.

Number one, they must be disciples that were born in Baba's house. They are born in his house. They are properly born.

Then they are trained. They are taught. They are raised.

They are shown the principles of the household of faith. They are shown the principles of the kingdom of God. There are people who are being trained, exposed to discipleship principles.

And whenever Baba is ready to launch them into his army, the next thing he does is to arm them with his own weapons. So we see this kind of stage by stage processing of lives that can be taken as part of the army. This is not just an aimless teaching.

Once God delivers a disciple into your hand, he has a project in mind. He wants that life to be grown enough, matured enough, trained enough, and then armed to be able to be a part of the army. That is what is in God's mind.

That's what is at the back of his heart. And that's why discipleship is very important to us. So if somebody comes into your hand, it's not just somebody that, if a disciple comes into your hand, it's not to be raised into what we have referred to many times as a loyalty court.

Just to say, I am not a big man. You are counting your disciples. My disciples are up to 30 now.

They are up to 40. That's not the purpose. The discipleship process is not to raise houseboys and housegirls.

Somebody to help your wife in the kitchen. Or somebody to work in your mechanic workshop. Or somebody with whom you can send on errands to do this.

That's not the purpose of discipleship. God has a project in mind. Baba has a work in mind.

There are some lords outside there that have been captured. They are important to God's kingdom, yes. They may have taken the wrong decisions.

They may have done wrong things. That's why they are outside there. But nevertheless, they are Baba's family.

And he wants them back in his kingdom. He cannot just hijack people from the road. So that is the reason for discipleship.

He takes them. They must be people that are properly born in his house. Properly trained by his men.

In the process called discipleship. They must be people that are armed with the weapons of the kingdom. Ready to fight.

And whenever he has his eyes on something. Whether it is in the family. Whether it is in the denomination.

Whether it is in a professional field. Wherever it is that Baba decides that I am going to recover the lords that rightfully belong to me. He must have people born in his house.

Trained by his men. Armed by his weapons. With his weapons.

And then he can number an army with which to prosecute the reviver. This in a nutshell is what the discipleship process that you have come into is all about. It has an aim.

It has a focus. Every product of your discipleship must be trained. They must be usable.

They must be people who are spiritual weapons. People whose life and character can be used by God. Just thrown into a professional space.

And they can wreak havoc in the kingdom of the devil. That's Baba's intention. That's Baba's focus.

That's God's intention for bringing, attracting disciples to you. It doesn't just bring people to you for your own purposes. I'm going to be bringing in my brethren now.

We are going to be discussing what we feel is the curriculum that every disciple should have in mind when you are raising disciples. Let me therefore bring in our brother Amos from Uganda. And brother Charles from Koko.

Thank you. And over the years as God has brought us in the issue of discipleship. And I think this is coming from one of the messages that our elder and leader shared several years ago.

The five C's that every disciple should pursue in the life of a disciple. The five C's that should be the focus of our discipleship. And we are going to be, it's quite a tall order.

Within the remaining few minutes left for us, we are going to be looking at these five C's very quickly. That if a disciple is deposited into your hand, we expect that you should carry this disciple. Within this space,

permit me to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Within three years, a disciple should be taking through these five C's. And I'm going to ask brother Charles to, first of all, come in quickly and help us to bring those five C's into focus as we run through them quickly. Yes, so I've named them the five C's.

On the screen there you can see that first on the list is Christ. And then character, charisma, career and courage. Now this should be the focus of every young person.

Let me use the word young. Because many times when people come into discipleship, their present reality may help us to know where they are. But if God gives us a privilege to be involved in the life of any young person, it's an opportunity to build from the scratch.

It's an opportunity to look at the scope and dimension of what God would want to do with his life in order to position him for the kind of things God wants to do with him. And so let me first of all just introduce those five C's. And if it is possible, as much as possible, they are very simple to remember.

Put them at your fingertips. Christ, character, charisma, career and courage. God may give you other acronyms for it.

He may give you some other words. But if we, by the mercy of God, remember these five C's, then we'll know that gives us a complete comprehensive curriculum of what God would want to do with any young man, by the grace of God. All right.

Thank you very much. So let's go right away to discuss the very first C that we believe every discipler, every discipleship class, every discipleship program must focus on. And the first is Christ.

Can you bring on the first light for me? Christ. What do we mean by that? Just like we read with Abraham that the first thing that anybody who is going to be... Can you bring in the next slide for me? All right. Thank you.

Anybody who is going to be a part of God's army must first and foremost have been born in his house. In other words, any disciple, the first objective is that Christ be formed in such a person. And we are going to do it in short, short, short.

And we have put some scriptures around which we can look. But the first objective is that if somebody comes, you cannot say that there is a discipleship program going on between you and an individual when that fellow has not yet met Christ. When Christ has not first and foremost been born inside of him, he has not become born again.

You cannot disciple an unbeliever no matter how willing he is. Like we have said several times for many of us who have gone through discipleship classes, we say you cannot feed a lizard to become an alligator. It's a species issue.

A lizard overfed can only be a big lizard. It can never become an alligator. It's a species issue.

If they have not been to the cross, if they have not met Christ, they cannot be like Christ. Brother Amos, you want to add something to that quickly? All right. Just to add to what Brother Landry is already saying, the beginning of an effective discipleship is that the life of Christ is established in the disciple that we are training.

Just like he has also said, the Bible says if anyone is in Christ, it's a new creation. We are dealing with discipleship. One of the best definitions we have found for discipleship is that discipleship is God's way of making somebody to become like Jesus.

Accept you have the seed of Christ in you. No matter the level of training, no matter the level of teaching. Now, if the seed of Christ is not in a person, you cannot disciple him to become like Jesus.

Now, and I'm speaking on two notes very quickly. Both on the part of the disciple, which Brother Landry has already mentioned, and I don't want to repeat some of the things he has said. We discovered that when you look at Acts chapter nine, after Paul gave his life to Christ and he got to Damascus and asked him and prayed for him and all of that.

Now, when he eventually got to Jerusalem, the Bible said he attempted to join the disciple, but he didn't believe it. He was born again already. Even the apostles were afraid of him.

Until Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and he testified. It means he must have sat down to listen to his testimony of how he got born again, how the Lord spoke to him on the way. So it means both on the part of the disciple and the disciple, this is the first thing to establish because we are talking about the life of Christ.

Now, let me conclude that section by saying that is why I keep telling people today that we cannot replace discipleship with mentorship. In discipleship, the focus is Jesus. The life of Christ is what we are pursuing.

In mentorship, you are just wanting to become like somebody. You are learning techniques. You are learning things to do.

Brother Charles, let me allow you to make a point quickly before we move on. In addition to what you have said, I just want to restate it that what we are talking about is what I may call in another way the new creation realities. Now, the reason is because there is something that is parallel, that is very close to it, that may look like that's discipleship, but that is not.

Many times, taking somebody to teaching Bible and learning the Bible, going to a Bible school, it's good, it's a process, but does not necessarily replace what we are talking about. We are talking about Christ himself as a person, living in a person, as opposed to the person just observing the teachings of Christ. There are many times that I have seen these two parallel, and sometimes I see it in many mission schools as I look back.

You know, what I've discovered over the years is that when you take a young person and you take him through the Bible, the Bible itself, the instructions, they contain moral lessons, they contain the teachings of Jesus Christ. They have capacity on their own to subdue a man, to make him sober, but you see, it's not a replacement. Copying Christ, following the example of Jesus, is not a replacement for Jesus living in a person.

I will give you the example of what I'm talking about. You see, Jesus himself brought disciples to himself. Those three years, he taught them.

They saw his teachings, they saw his ways, and there were changes. They actually took steps to be like him, but for the Lord Jesus Christ, he knew that what he's looking for is not somebody who is practicing to be like him. It's not somebody we are making to accept his teachings.

Christ himself had to, by a mystery of the Holy Spirit, go back to heaven and come back himself to live inside them in order to live the life he has taught them. Now, if we miss this reality at this point, we're going to produce a lot of powerless Christianity. We're going to produce what would have passed as Christianity, sound, moral people who knows the word of God, who knows teachings, who are trying to live that life by their strength, by their power, who will still not get what God is looking for.

So I wanted to state that again, and that's what every disciple, a disciple, must labor for. Many times it's very cheap to bring somebody who you are simply teaching in the Bible, but the encounter, the deliberateness of making sure that it is no longer him that lives. It's not that he's trying to live the life of Christ for Christ.

It's not that he's trying to behave like Jesus, because all of this can be done. But that he has understood the mystery, that it is Christ wanting to behave Christ in him. That's where we are going to.

And I just want to share this with us in my little experience. I've discovered that when I look back and I meet many men who went to mission schools, many of them are our leaders today. But you see some of them somewhere along the line, they have jettisoned what they learned.

And I easily saw why. You see, when you bring somebody under the Bible, and you have taught him that when they slap him back, he should not slap. You have taught him how to be humble.

And it goes out into the society. And by the time they slap him three or four or five times, and he has no answer. The truth of the matter is that he is not going to follow that.

The reason is that Jesus himself, who said we should be as innocent as a dove, also told us to be as wise as a serpent. Because that's who he is. If he's not the one living his life inside us, morality can be dangerous many times.

It can put you at a disadvantage. So let's note that what we are looking for is a new creation life. Christ living his life, but in a body that has been emptied.

Thank you, sir. Thank you. So before we go to the next C, what we have said in essence is that it is Christ in you that is the hope of any kind of glory.

So discipleship has not yet begun for a life that we cannot ascertain first and foremost that that person has met Christ and Christ is living inside of him. Now we go on to the second C in the series of five C's, which is now character building. And to just go ahead on that is the fact that when Christ begins to live inside an individual, he begins to live his own life and we can now train that life in righteousness.

In 1 John 3, verses 5 to 10, he said, That looks like tautology, but it was put there for a purpose. Somebody cannot claim to be righteous when he's not doing righteousness. We all agree that we are made in righteousness of God in Christ Jesus by the death of Christ on the cross.

Yes, that's the first C we talked about. Righteousness is imputed upon us. Yes.

But the evidence of showing that righteousness is that you now begin to live a righteous life. You begin to have a character that is like that of Christ. And this needs to be emphasized.

It's like flipping a coin. Brother Charles was saying it is possible to become moral without meeting Christ. But let me also add the second one is that it is impossible to have Christ inside of you and now not live a

life consistent with Christ, to not live a moral life.

Now, because there are many doctrines flying around now, doctrines that says once you give your life to Christ Jesus and you are saved, that's all. No matter what happens, you are going to heaven, you are already righteous and Jesus inside of you cannot be kicked out by the devil at any time. All of that, we need to now train each person.

That's part of the discipleship process. The life of Christ that is inside you, it is only when Christ has started living inside of somebody that you can now, it is now, how do I put it? It is now relevant to tell that person that when they slap you on the right cheek like Jesus, the Jesus inside of you will like to react without, will like to respond without reacting with another dirty slap. Can I allow you to make inputs into this? Alright, quickly, character development.

Alright, just to take it a little further, now the Bible says the fruit of the Spirit is. Now, when somebody gives his life to Christ, as we have seen in Peter, it say as newborn babes, it means he has the futures of Christ, the seed of Christ, both immature and undeveloped. Now, discipleship is what turns that into the solid future of the life and the character of Jesus.

That we now see as described by the fruit of the Spirit. So, when a life is passing through discipleship, now the measure of the life of Christ is not just by how much he can preach and how much he can speak, it's by the life and the character that is coming out of that life. Now, imagine that Jesus recruited James and John and he called them sons of thunder.

Sons, the Bonagis. So much that when they made a road block on his way, he said, excuse me sir, can we command fire? And he told them, he said, you don't know the spirit that you are made of. Now, imagine now that the same John, now James didn't live long enough for us to see what discipleship actually brought out of his life.

But thank God that we have John. These same sons of thunder became an apostle of law and wrote so much about law than almost any of the other apostles. So, what did Jesus do? It's like he addressed the issues of character in their lives.

You know, he was able to turn these sons of Bonagi that is always ready for revenge, always ready to condemn fire into an apostle of love. That will say, whereby we perceive the love of God that he gave himself to us, we also ought to give ourselves to the brethren. So, when we receive disciples, they will come very raw.

They will come with all what was the seed of Christ is there. Discipleship in teaching, in training, and in the discipler, exemplifying the truth of the gospel for him or her to see. Now, begin to form the character, the nature, and begin to make it visible and manifest.

And that is when we can say that there is progress in discipleship. And we see all of that with people that came under discipleship, either under Jesus directly or even in other lives. Thank you, Mark.

Thank you, sir. Yes, Brother Charles, quickly. Just to add to what God has helped us with and to bring a little light to what may have looked like Confucian.

I want to describe character as the container for life. Now, you see, the life of Christ we received is a disposition, is inside us, is invisible. But our character is the interface, is the outward characteristics that

men touch.

Now, our character will, therefore, become the container through which the life of Jesus, who is invisible inside us, reaches out to men. And that's what we train. We train the character to become aligned, to become an able dispenser of Christ's life.

So, when the character is not trained, Christ is restricted inside of him. Christ is there. He may read the Bible and be having high temperatures of revelation.

But as long as his behaviors, his outward relationship with people, which all of these are issues of character, what people see eventually is what determines the effective witness of the Christ's life that he carries. But like we said, whereas life is supernatural, it's something that God gives us, but character, we train the character to carry the life, or else we'll be stranded. And many times the training for character, the Bible, the Word of God, correct example, but it's sometimes more than that.

It involves some deliberateness of reinforcement of discipline. You know, I'll give you an example. If you have somebody who has received Christ and is very lazy, you will discover that he reads the Bible, he knows that Christ is not lazy, but he is lazy.

Now, that laziness that people see already has become an obstruction to who Christ is. So what do we do with such a person? We train him. You see, we may read the Bible, but it's not the Bible alone.

You see, I'll give you an example. If it's somebody that cannot wake up early enough in the morning, it's all right to, first of all, exhort him from the Bible. Such a person just needs to get a bucket of cold water and pour on him.

But that's that kind of, that's the discipleship of character. Let me share an example. Let me just finish it.

You know, we read, when I came into discipleship, I came in, just like Brother Emo said, raw in many areas. And my own formal lifestyle trained me to choose whatever I want to eat is what I eat. And so, you know, in discipleship class, we come to the point of saying a disciple is not choosy.

The Bible says, eat whatsoever is set before you. I arrived at that academy, one of those, many years ago, and I came in there and there was this soup. I've forgotten the name now.

Black, slimy, like this. And then they said, this is what we are going to eat. I took one look at that thing and I told myself, I am not eating this.

Yes, I know the Bible said, eat whatever is set before you. But the training of character. It doesn't just look like that.

I say, what is happening? I say, excuse me, sir. Excuse me, ma'am. I'm not eating this thing.

This black thing, they say, ah ah. Does that, the Bible not say, that time is pastolary, you are going to eat that thing. Ah ah, the Bible says, eat whatever is set before you.

It's an elder that is speaking to me. I gritted everything inside of me and sat down as I was putting that thing in. At first, it was looking like I was going to vomit.

But eventually, I ate it. And it became one of the soups that I enjoyed. And that's training that we are talking about.

That taught me something. That when the Bible says, eat whatever is set before you, the character of being malleable, the character of being, people can instruct you and you can follow it, was becoming set. Thank you very much.

I'm looking at my time. We have to move to the next scene because of time. Let's move on to the next scene, which is now charisma.

Now, sometimes, because we emphasize on life and character development so much in discipleship, there is the possibility for us to push aside, as if it is not necessary, the issue of developing your gifts, the issue of developing your graces, the issue of fanning a flame, the spirit-born creativity that is now subdued under Christ. Yes, at the beginning of discipleship, we may have to cut down all the, like for me, it was a battle. But at the end, we say, Larry, you are too brilliant.

Allow Christ, allow Christ. But did Christ not put the brilliance in me? I needed to subject that to Christ first and become the subdued disciple that is not bumping to do, I had to learn, who told you to do this? Who is pushing you to do this? But eventually, the grace, the gifts, the capabilities in the disciple must not be allowed to die. I will just read one scripture before I keep quiet for others to make an input.

The Bible tells us in, you know, there is this 1 Corinthians 1 verse 4. 1 Corinthians 1, if you follow me quickly, and verse 4 says, I thank my God always on your behalf for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ, that in everything you are enriched by Him in all utterance and in all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed to you, so that you come behind in no gifts, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, the gifts are there. That's part of what we should work on in discipleship.

As we work on character, the gifts of Christ, spiritual gifts, competencies, sometimes talents, are all issues in the disciple that must be discovered and utilized. Several of my gifts today are becoming useful because it was not killed by a discipler. Several of disciplers, because, eh, sit down there, who told you to do that? Why do you want to show yourself? All of those things may kill the disciple before he develops it.

And of course, 2 Timothy 1, verse 6 says, you should stir up the gifts of Christ that is within us. Let me keep quiet here. Charles, Amos? Alright, let me just add something to that, very quickly.

Now, when Jesus recruited the early disciples, now he had a focus of what he wanted to make them. He said, follow me and I will make you vicious men. Now, of course, he gave them the order that your life first.

You know, he recruited them that they might be with him and that he might send them to go and preach. Now, I want us to know that in discipleship, God does not intend that we should waste men or waste their talents. And one of the reasons why sometimes we do that, which actually with every, I don't know how to put it, I learned this from Brother Gili, is that he has a heart that he can endure your mistakes.

He can endure your wrongness. But sometimes as disciples, we quickly take over. When a disciple is trying to express and is not doing it the way you think he should do it, when he's making a mistake, sometimes it's after you have not done all of that, he will say, Amos, but this should have been like this, you know.

And sometimes he will only first even appreciate and make you to see the ones who have done good, the ones who have done well. And then you are able to listen, say, but next time, this like this, this like this. You know, but sometimes I wonder, but you should have at least even taken over.

I say, no, no, no. Sometimes you even intentionally say, go and do it. And when you have done it, you didn't do it well, you say, go back again.

Now, in the training of discipleship for disciples, for their gifts to manifest, the disciple must endure mistakes. Sometimes, as long as it's not going to be a colossal, it's not a mistake that has to do with life and all of that. Now, training, you know, in materials, in time and all of that, only comes out in development of gifts and talents when we allow the disciples to be able to practice, to be able to express, to express.

Now, and when we do that, the discipleship becomes, it becomes enjoyable, even to the disciple. You know, I just add something. Now, one of our children, he was appreciating me and he was telling me, he said, one thing I thank my dad for, which was also what I learned in discipleship, he said, even when I was not doing well academically, he believed in me.

He just believed that it would be okay. And today, it's already pushing to be a first class material. He said, but when I was not doing well, I wonder what made him to believe that I would do well.

So, we should believe that discipleship, because it's the life of Christ. Now, disciples under Christ that have the life of Christ, with training, with patience, they will do well, by the grace of God. Amen.

Quickly, Brother Charles. Yes, not much to add, but to say that this must be deliberate. I'm still very, I'm talking, maybe if we are dealing with old people in discipleship, elderly people, as we look at their realities, there may be more critical issues that need attention because of some mistakes they have done.

But when we are dealing with fresh lives, young men and women that God has brought to us, we should know that what God is giving us a way to do is to build, and we must build wholesomely. We are not, it's not just remedial, remedial, remedial. Now, it is in the light of this that God must help us as disciples.

The reason is because there are several of us who are disciples, who have come into this, and without saying, some of these things in our own lives, they are not present. Either because of what we have gone through in life, some of us God had to rescue us from some things that, so we may not necessarily be a perfect example for the things we are talking about. That's what is just coming to my mind now, because I have seen it.

A disciple may not have opportunity himself, maybe in a corner, he doesn't express any gift, apart from maybe the gift of the Bible that he teaches, which is alright. He should be willing to impart that, but he should go beyond that. He should know that this life has dimensions ahead of him.

So this is my counsel, and this is what I think God may be leading us to in this time. Discipleship is a teamwork. We must be ready now, at this critical time, in order to achieve what God is doing, to collaborate.

I have quietly begun to see that the way we are going, if we are going to believe God and help these young people, to even go beyond what we don't have, because we cannot give what we don't have, is that we should be willing to identify these things and seek for help. And I saw that in the Acts of the Apostles, and I'm looking, and I saw that their own discipleship was communal, even though each and every one of

those apostles, they have oversight over each of those. But I saw a net, where any soul that is inside is already caught.

So if we have this kind of mindset, instead of this individualism, of saying, these are my disciples, and you are making sure that you are using them to make an impression, you don't want them to go anywhere, so that people will hail you that you are the best disciple, and all of that. And these people may be dying secretly, because they need things that many times you don't have. And God is giving you a privilege, even when you don't have it, even when God has helped you, even without some of those things.

These children must not be disadvantaged. These young lives must go beyond us. So this is one area, because many people may claim that they themselves, they don't have these gifts, they don't have many skills, but you can be a facilitator.

You can identify and make room, make provisions, create environment, create enablement, support, monitor, all of that, even when the gifts that the disciple is wanting to manifest, or God wants to put in him, even when it seems as if you don't have it, but as a disciple, God has put you there to be a steward, to help him midwife it. You can call upon other disciples, you can look for where those things are abundant, and call for help, instead of sitting on disciples as if they are your personal properties. Thank you very much.

That point is very important, and that was what I was going to round up with, that there is not a single one of us that can raise a life. Even in our local cultures, this is understood, that it is two, they will say four eyes give birth to a child, but a million eyes watch that child to grow. That's the communal discipleship that we are talking about.

Identify people who can make an input into the disciple under your hand, and release, sometimes release them. Several of us that are seated down here, by the grace of God, we have children, and we are disciples ourselves, but in order that those disciples will not miss out anything, we send them out, go and live with this person. There is none of my children that has not lived with at least two, if not three other disciples, in order for them to be exposed to something else, apart from what they can gain from our lives.

Let's move on to number four. And number four is career, job, and work ethics. Again, the scriptures we have put there, they are just to guide us.

The Bible says, Seest thou a man that is diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings, and he will not stand before men. Proverbs 24, I think so, 24, 27 says, Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field. Afterwards, build thine own house.

What is that bringing in very quickly? Every disciple must have a sense that, excuse me, we're going to job, we're going to work, with an understanding that we don't eat first. These are all things that must be built into the disciple. A career is only a vehicle.

A career is not first for food. A career is not first for what you will eat. A career is something that you will, is a means to a work, first.

Before, later, you can now start talking about building your own estate. You can now talk about enjoying, if there's something like that. And we can now say, oh, it's time we can now build this, we can now buy this, we can now do both.

Most of our disciples, they don't have this correct sense in discipleship. They are looking for money. I meet several disciples now.

The first struggle is to deliver them from mammon, is to deliver them from the pursuit of money. Now, for the disciple, your career is not a means of making money. Your career is a platform for serving God, is a platform for allowing Christ to flow through you to places that he has posted you in.

As usual, I would just want to open the subject and allow us to bring inputs into it. Go ahead, sir. Now, we have to know that in discipleship, just to build on what Larry has said, now, when the disciple comes to our hand, discipleship is holistic.

Discipleship is wholesome, is complete. Now, somebody has come into your hand and maybe he stopped at secondary school or halfway or even dropped out of school. Now, as we teach them all of that and train them in life, in gifts, in all the things we have said, now, how do we develop a sustainable career for these disciples? Some, we may have to encourage them and make input into their education.

Some, we have to support them and encourage them in their career because the more he's able to make progress, he has a better platform to express this life. Now, I remember one of the brothers that came to us several years ago. Now, he came as a graduate assistant, and I said, okay, brother, if you have chosen that it is academics you feel you want to pursue, then the slogan there is publish or perish.

So, I kept encouraging him, pushing him, and can I tell you, to the glory of God, in less than 17 years or thereabouts, he became a professor. Even some of the things he thinks is not possible, I said, brother. In fact, at a point, I said, don't tell me.

You need to go and do this. You need to go and do this. So, all of these are part of discipleship.

Now, for Jesus, for example, he was able to develop these people as fishers of men to the extent that the Sanhedrin Council, they could not push them aside. He was able to develop them in their own career, if we call it fishers of men and preaching, to the extent that, as we heard in the morning, we saw how Peter was able to quote from Psalms, quote from this, so they became very proficient in what he disciplined them to become. Now, so we must put this also at the back of our mind, that when a disciple has come, how do we improve his career or his proficiency in what we perceive he needed to pursue? If it's education, how do we encourage? How do we tell him that this is possible? Sometimes it is the disciple that prays and God shows him, okay, this is what this disciple should go and read, and then you share with him.

This is the school next he should go. This other exam he attempted and he failed, it's still the next thing to pursue. And you are praying with him, you are sitting with him, you are encouraging him.

So that more disciples come into our hands, and it's after many years, if we see his colleagues, if we see his classmates, they have become something, you know, even in the society, and they are becoming a platform for the expression of the life of Christ, and he is not feeling as if he has been wasted. He's not feeling as if there are some things we should have done we did not do. Now, there are some other ones we didn't do very well, and then when we realized, we said, so what else can we do in order for whatever gap, whatever is left that should have been done? So we need to put this as we look at the issue of career, as we look at the issue of job, as we look at the issue of works and all of that, so that discipleship becomes holistic, it becomes, you know, a disciple is entire, is complete, lacking nothing.

Praise the Lord. Yes, sir. Because of time, can I ask you to, whatever you want to bring, bring, but touch on the issue of ethics, because I'm looking at my time, for us to go to the last one.

Go ahead. Yeah, so just to note that part of what is very critical, you know, to impart every disciple with, especially as issue of career and professional vocation, because that's their license to touch the world. Definitely, it is obvious that it's not everybody that Jesus Christ would want them to have a career inside the church or in the pulpit.

So you know that that's the majority of where the body of Christ is. They are there in the world because he commands it. We should go out into all the world.

So it's very critical to note that, to have a young one with you as a disciple, and every day he wakes up and says, the only thing God is asking me to do is to pray and fast. I will not doubt that, but I want you to know that it's not just to pray and fast. You have a seven-year, a nine-year, a 10-year-old boy, and you say the gift of the Holy Spirit is upon him.

God is making him a prophet, and because of that, you will not send him to school. I tell you, you are not doing correctly. At this stage of our life, career is a critical vehicle, as we have said, and we must help them identify.

Some of them, they will come to us confused, not knowing what to do. It will be our responsibility to pursue God with them and then help them to identify what their career path is. In doing that, I just have a suggestion.

In our own training, especially in the area of education, we discovered that learning is majorly dependent on three domains, the cognitive, the affective, and what we call the psychomotor. Every human being has this capacity, but they are only developed to a degree or the other. Some, it is their cognitive ability that is coming out clearly.

Some, they may not be very much, you know, stimulated in their cognitive. It's our responsibility to quietly look at their strong point, which of this domain is very strong in their life, and then we push it. And who knows, from that point, they can even return back to academics.

Rather than leave them idle, we must not do that. And I just want to use the opportunity, even though the time is very short, to note that even God has held our leadership responsible for this. And for this reason, that is why we have Price, Pivots, Fatty, Fifth Tech.

Only God knows how many He's still going to bring. But this won't matter, it's because of this holistic discipleship. You can't have young men living with you, staying with you as disciples, reading the Bible, and you are not deliberately training every other part of their life for a career in the world on behalf of Jesus.

It's a very critical thing. You are not doing well, whether it's your own child, whether it is somebody that is a disciple, whatever. That's a critical point.

So I just want to use the opportunity to mention this. That's why Fifth Tech, you see the nature of the training, is to cater for some persons that look as if, okay, their own aspect of training and career is not in the cognitive, but is much more strong in their psychomotor domain. They know how to use their hands.

They know how to manipulate things. We can give them a career from that standpoint. So note that that's the reason for FATI and the Institute of Greek, the Peace House Institute of Printing Technology, the Pivot, which is the most recent one, Peace House Institute of Vocational Training, and then the Price itself, which is a scientific research, to give expression to those young men who have discovered in their life that that's that area that God wanted them to make a mark.

So those are the things I just wanted to add to that. All right. Thank you very much.

I wanted you to speak a bit about ethics, too, which we have spoken. Many times you have a disciple that you are looking for a job for. You cannot, you can't get a job because even if you give him a job, within a few months, he's thrown out.

He's lazy. He wakes up late. He's sloppy.

He doesn't do his work well. He's not diligent in business. The Bible says confidence in an unfaithful man is like a tooth out of John.

Very soon, the people say, even though you are speaking in tongues, we thank God for your life, but we cannot keep you here because you are not faithful at your work. You are not, you can't be depended upon. Very, very important.

We will have to move to the last one, which is courage. This is a bit technical, but it's another aspect of discipleship training that we must not overlook in raising the disciple. I think the only scripture I would like to read would be in Daniel 1. If we read Daniel 1, I think the message of Living Bible Translation is very, very interesting.

What will eventually fit our disciples to places where they can command authority, places where they can make effect for Christ, places where they can really make impact, rather than just not only in the church. What can fit them for those places is this last area we call courage. Now, can you go to Daniel 1? Aha! It says, The king told Aspen as head of the palace staff to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility, young men who were healthy, handsome, intelligent, well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens, and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and in the law of magic and fortune-telling.

That's as far back as the Old Testament. This is just to show us that the world system is looking for perfect specimens. They are not looking... You may be good.

Sometimes you meet a disciple, very brilliant, very sharp, maybe even made a 2-1 or a first class in school, but his appearance does not make it easy for him to enter into certain places. He cannot speak to his colleagues, cannot speak to the government. Many things make him easily despicable.

This is also part and parcel of our discipleship training, to train their courage. And we have listed personality and productivity. These are two areas.

First, work on their personality. Their ability to stand in the king's palace. Their ability to compete with their mates.

Their speaking language. They speak well. Sometimes you meet some disciples, English you cannot speak well.

Even your local language you cannot speak well. No language you are proficient in. No matter your certificate, no matter your spirituality, there are places you need access to.

By the grace of God, some of the places that God has allowed us to step into in life is because there is nothing they want to do there that we cannot do. And there is nothing they want to manifest that, by the grace of God, we are trained and ready for it. It is not fair to the Lord Jesus Christ to have disciples that are not usable.

Disciples that are not sendable. Disciples that are not productive in themselves and they cannot stand among their colleagues. Brother Charles.

Yes. And many times in addition to this, part of this carriage, what we call deportment, will also be things like insecurity, inferiority complex, lack of assurance, over-affirmation, nervousness. Those are all some of the things that quietly are inside, that play out.

And you know what we are talking about now is that the carriage is the outmost manifestation of our personalities. They have a way of placing us in the eyes of men or wherever they want to place us. So God also intends that in working on a disciple, after working on his character, it's not just enough that he knows what is good.

The most refined aspect of life is what we are dealing about. His movement, his walk, his posture, his dressing, his speech. All of these are very critical to be a winner.

And I just want to say that it's not only the king of this world that demands such. If you look at Psalm 144 verse 12, you will discover that even God himself made such a demand that our daughters may be as copters, fit for the palace. So God must help us, especially when we have opportunity to deal with people that are at their formative stage, to deal with everything about them.

You see a young girl that is not yet old and careless living, careless diet, careless eating. She's already developing a tire in her stomach. Her breast is already doing booga booga somewhere.

You know, all of those kinds of things. There are some places, no matter how sharp she is, that as soon as she comes out, do you know that in interview partners, they are what we call appearance. And that carries a mark of his own.

They just look at what they know. And sometimes, you know, like we said, God must help us to not be deliberate. And like I said before, even if some of us, I had to say, all of those things don't matter.

What matters is anointing. God is using it because of anointing. I say no.

Anointing matters, but there are some of us that when God could not find us to train us, look at me like this. You see, many people know that I have a hunchback. Can I tell you that this hunchback is not physiological? That's not how I was born.

I happen to have fallen into wrong, wrong, wrong friends, the hands of wrong friends in my undergraduate days. Who taught me, because I wanted to belong so much, that the way to impress girls and to show that you are somebody is to walk as if God doesn't exist. You know, it wasn't until I developed a hunchback.

Now it's very difficult for me to stand straight. And I know many times people that should have, you know, all of this. Thank you very much.

All right. I think you have made your point and our time has run out. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 4, verse 12, it says, Be thou an example of believers in many ways, in charity, in speech, in behavior, in conversation, in manner of life.

Be an exemplary person that when they see you, they cannot push you aside. What we have done today, by the grace of God, is to just touch. Of course, you know that each one of these things is something that we could sit down for a whole hour or two dealing with.

It's just to show us that discipleship is holistic. Discipleship is total. When I learned discipleship, I learned it as an adoption of a life, which you will, under God, you will become responsible to ensure that this life fulfills all of God's purpose for that life.

So whether it's academic, whether it's in marriage, whether it's in job, whether whatever area of life, discipleship is meant to prepare that person holistically for his or her future. Especially now that we are pushing the battle for the young. If you look at our secondary schools today, now, many, many things are going on.

That is not preparing those children for their future. And by the grace of God, when they come into our hands, discipleship is meant to pick them up, deal with them spiritually, character, get their job, get their future. So that by the grace of God, God has hands that he can use in different aspects of the world.

Brother Amos is just going to give us a five minutes, a short and make it short, short and sharp. God bless you. But the aspect I want to now finally look at very, very quickly, Jesus said, follow me and I will make you fish as men.

Now, the way God has helped us, just in a measure to describe what discipleship is and what it should be. I want to believe that as many of us as are following today, you can now appreciate discipleship. Now, maybe we should apologize on behalf of those that have shown the wrong side of discipleship.

And I've made people to believe that, excuse me, I don't need it. Can I tell you? I don't need it. No man can make himself.

You have to be made. Even after you say I'm born again, I'm growing. Now there are different aspects of your life that those that have gone ahead.

They are the one that can serve as the visual in order to make your journey fast. And in order to make your journey smooth. So can I appeal to as many as I hearing who are not in active discipleship? That first today you will say, Lord, cover that discipleship is your provision to speed me up and to make me fast on to becoming what you want me to become.

Now, this discipleship is both vertical and horizontal. Vertical under the Lord Jesus himself, who is the master discipline, who we have all been called to become like him. But in order for this particular sometimes to be fast in order for it to, to, to be with us much struggle.

Now, God provides for several of his children, people that can also say, follow me as I follow Christ. Will you want to pray today and say, Lord, now that I'm discovering that discipleship is your provision, especially now that God is saying, and you will see greater things. Sometimes you are seeing some things, but you are not seeing it very well.

Sometimes you are seeing something. You are not understanding it very well. In order for you to be very effective in this state, that God is advertising.

So you will see greater things. You say you are going to see the Son of angels ascending and descending. Now, some of the things you are seeing as a young person, whether you are young in faith or young in age, some of them need interpretation.

Actually, each of us, as we have been sharing, you will bear us witness that several of what you are seeing in our lives today. Now, some of them, we are not able to get it directly, even from the Bible, but God show us an audio visual. And that is why we also have the strength and the courage to also tell others and say, follow me, because we have also seen that somebody say, follow me.

And as we are following, we are becoming more and more like Jesus. So my own appeal and my own challenge is that we are adults that are not in active discipleship, that you don't have discipleship, you don't have discipleship relationship. Now, it only makes your journey long.

It makes it slow. It makes it sluggish. Now, if you have seen the bad side or the negative side of discipleship, we are showing you today that that is not what discipleship actually is.

And that is not what God meant discipleship to be. So one of the prayers we want you to pray with us today is that Lord, even as I've surrendered my life unto you, as I believe that I have the life of Christ and I've encountered you. Now, and as I'm trying to grow directly and vertically as a disciple under you.

Now, where is that life also? Where is that Elijah? Where is that Paul? Where is that Barnabas that can add to my journey? That can help me in order to quickly become what you want me to become. So for Jesus, he called these people and they responded. Each of them, they abandoned their career.

Some even their parents, their sheep, and eventually they became the fishers of men that they are supposed to become. So as we get to the point of prayer, I want you to respond to me and say, Lord, I need this provision of yours. Especially now that you are advertising or you are proclaiming an open heaven, so that there will be no wastage in my life.

You know, sometimes there are things that you need. There are things you need to know to do that discipleship can help you to address. That is our own experience.

I don't have time to begin to share, but there are several things that sincerely is in following regularly and having the advantage sometimes just to drive him, just to watch him, just to listen to him. We go for program just to see the way he behaves. Sometimes I'm just watching.

Now, there could be those Barnabas here and there, that when you pray, God will be leading you to them. And there could be some, that is the last thing I want to say, even as disciples, that you are the one that we call and say, follow me. When you see young lives, whether they are brothers, whether they are sisters, as a brother and as a sister, that God has helped your own life.

Just like brother Charles said, the help may not have been complete. We are all growing, or at least we have something to offer under the law. Now, call men also to discipleship, under this open heaven, so that we can help, we can prepare vessels so that this open vessel will not be wasted.

As I hand over to brother Larry, now to pray with us. Now I want you to respond, and I want disciples to be, to be committed afresh, on raising lives, after the pattern of Jesus, as we have discussed today, and on to giving men holistic discipleship. Don't let any aspect of their life, please don't let it suffer.

Don't let anybody come back tomorrow and say, boy, you wasted my life. Now, as disciples, we need to pray. And as those that need to respond to discipleship, we need to pray.

As those that are already in discipleship, now brother Danny said, we need to engage this thing much more than ever before. As God is saying, open heaven. Behold, you will see the heavens open.

But Larry, please conclude for us. God bless you sir. There is not much to say again.

He said in all of the centers, and as you heard us speaking about discipleship, I say, I don't have anybody doing this for me. And I want to enter into a discipleship relationship today. I want to have a disciple.

I want to begin to attend a discipleship class. I want to be helped spiritually, so that my life will turn out to be, wherever you are, can I ask you to just stand on your feet, wherever you are. We're going to pray with you just quickly.

Our time has finished. Please just stand wherever you are, all across the centers. God bless you.

Thank you. Stand up and say, I want to be discipled. I want to have a discipleship relationship.

Thank you. God bless you. I see people standing up all over the centers.

Thank you. God bless you. Just stand to your feet, quickly, quickly, everywhere.

I want to have a discipleship relationship. I want somebody to help me. God bless you.

God bless you Ma. God bless you sir. And as you are standing, I want you to talk to God and say, Lord, here am I. Make me.

Make something out of my life. Pull out something out of my life. I want my future not to be a waste.

I don't want to waste around. God bless you. Just stand to your feet, quickly, wherever you are.

Please just stand. God bless you. Thank you.

Our time has finished, and I will have to pray now. I will have to pray now. to sensitize the hearts of your children everywhere to discipleship, to committing themselves to becoming like Jesus and to allow their lives to be watched over by disciples that have gone ahead of them in that so that they will become something quickly.

Father, I plead with you for everyone that is standing on their feet, either they are standing up to want to be made into a disciple or they themselves are standing up to say, Lord, disciples under my hand will not waste any longer. Father, hear our cry, release grace from heaven cause these lives one by one to be registered in your registrar. So that when you are looking for men born in your house, trained by your men, armed with your weapons and you will be able to put them in your army to prosecute the war and prosecute the revival that has suddenly come upon us.

Thank you for hearing us. We worship and exalt your name. Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit will watch over these ones.

Please follow them up. Even for those that we may not be able to get down their details, for those who are listening online, those who are making decisions in their parlor, those who are making decisions in far countries where we don't have hands yet. Father, we are praying that the Holy Spirit will follow it up.

Bring them into a net, bring them into where their lives can be helped. Thank you for hearing us. In Jesus' mighty name, we are praying, amen.

■ Take me home ■

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