

## Accepting Christ



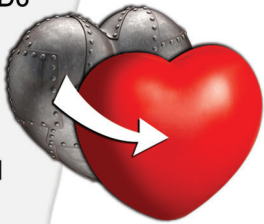
First and foremost, a disciple is someone who accepts Christ as Savior. Romans 10:9 says that "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Simply believing and confessing that Jesus is the risen Son of God is all that is necessary to receive the free gift of salvation to spend eternity with God.

## Growing in Christ

Accepting Christ as Savior is only the beginning of the spiritual journey of a disciple. Second Peter 3:18 states, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." A disciple is someone who continues to grow in his or her relationship with Christ.

## Transforming the Heart

Romans 12:2 teaches us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." From this command, we learn several things about a disciple of Christ.



A disciple should not conform to the world. That means a disciple of Christ speaks and acts differently than non-believers do.

A disciple of Christ renews his or her mind daily. Renewing our minds involves reading God's Word, studying God's Word, meditating on God's Word, and praying. Doing these things helps a Christian to communicate with the Living God and have a relationship with Him.



A disciple of Christ actively seeks out God's will and strives to submit entirely to God's plan for his or her life.

## How is your spiritual status?

**Have you accepted Christ as Savior?**

**Do you need more understanding of what a disciple of Christ means?**



**If you have accepted Christ, how is your relationship with Jesus today?**

**Is your relationship with Christ growing closer or growing more distant?**

**How is your communication through reading, studying, and praying each day?**

**Do you need help in your understanding of God's word?**

We would love to come alongside you to help with any of these questions. Please contact a ministry leader to help you understand what a disciple of Christ is.

# DISCIPLESHIP



## What is a Disciple?



## *A Baseline of Truth*

What if I told you that the God of the universe intimately knows you, cares for you, has a plan for you, and gave you explicit instructions on how to live your life?

## *Proving the Bible True*

But what if you don't believe the Bible is true? One way that can easily show proof is the evidence of prophecy. Prophecy is a foretelling of the future. Using this as our guide, we can easily compare all world religions to see who can be trusted. Out of all religions in the world, there is only one book with fulfilled prophecy, and that is the Christian Bible. Besides prophecy, there are many other facts that also prove the validity of the Bible.

## *Painting a Picture*

Can I paint you a picture? The Bible was not one book that was started by one person and left for another to pick up and continue with. The Bible is actually a collection of sixty-six separate books (called the canon of Scripture) written by approximately forty different authors over a period of fifteen hundred years. We call each of the sixty-six sections a "book," but in reality, the portions were literary writings, personal letters, poems, prophecy, historical commentary, or official court documents.



You might think that the authors would have been the current religious leaders of the day, but that is not so. The writers came from a variety of backgrounds, such as shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others. And most of these authors never collaborated with or knew one another personally.

The Bible was written in three different languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic) and was written on three different continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe). As you read each book, you can get a flavor of the times—the cultural differences and the traditions of the day. Even though most of the writers did not know one another and lived at different times in history, they were all accurate and consistent with historical events, places, laws, and themes.



## *Are There Mistakes in the Bible?*

With all the major gaps in time and location, you might think that these writings have mistakes and such, but that is not the case. When comparing the same biblical manuscript from one time and location to another, they match 99.5 percent. The context of the message did not change; it was the variations in grammar that made the difference.

## *Led by God*

So where did all these writers get this information? Just to get things straight, yes, men wrote the Bible, but they were inspired by God. When you look at all the following facts, it becomes easy to see that this divinely authored book is like no other book on earth.

- sixty-six different books
- forty different authors
- fifteen hundred-year period
- three different languages
- three different continents
- fulfilled prophecy
- a common storyline
- a common theme
- a common message
- no historical errors
- no contradictions

## *What are the Odds?*

Could something like this be completed without supernatural help? Let's say you take forty of today's best authors from around the world and give them all parts of a complex topic to write about, yet none could contact one another. Do you think there would be consistency? Would it have the same outcome? Would the characters have the same names? What are the chances that one writer speaks of a future event happening, and that same event is filled by another script? As far as I am concerned, all those possibilities are impossible. God's Word truly is a unique and amazing collection of writings!



Now, what does God say about you?