

First Baptist Church Mahan Street

Pastor's Bible Study (P.B.S.)

2/11/2026

“The Year of Discipleship Investment”

Lesson #2



“Spaceships/don’t come equipped/with rear view mirrors”

- Andre 3000, “Int’l Players Anthem (I Choose You)”

WEEK TWO: The Purposed Practice of Investment

Theme: From Vision to Action

Core Vision Statement

In 2026, God is calling us to move from **membership to discipleship** and from **participation to investment**. Christ is requiring of us to become disciples who are **fully present, deeply formed, missionally engaged**, and **faithfully committed** to the stewardship of God’s house and the witness of His kingdom.

This vision reframes discipleship not as attendance but as **investment**, evidenced in the intentional offering of **time, gifts, resources, and presence** for the sake of God’s kingdom.

This week we will shift from *why disciples invest* to *how we embody investment daily*.

THE CALL TO DEVELOP DISCIPLES OF CHRIST: UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP

Membership	Discipleship
Concerned w/ Tenure in the church	Concerned w/their Testimony in the church
Purposed by their Positions in the church/community	Purposed by their Witness in the church/community
Concerned w/ their Status in the church	Concerned w/their Sacrifice in the church
Driven to maintain Status-Quo (Tradition)	Driven to Transformation
Low Expectations for Church Membership & High Expectations of Church Staff	Next-Level Covenant Accountability
Give to Maintain the Institution	Give to Transform the Institution & the Hearts of those within it.
Goal is (Certain) Members Joining the Church	Goal is increasing Disciples in the Love of God & Neighbor
Prioritizes the Satisfaction of church membership	Prioritizes challenging Spiritual Growth
○ Operates from a Sense of Entitlement (Family, Tenure, Position, etc.)	Operates as a Servant/Steward (Humility, Grace, Sacrifice, Surrender, Servitude)

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1. Deep Formation: Investment in Spiritual Growth

Scriptures

- Psalm 1:1–3 — The rooted disciple
- John 15:4–8 — Abide in me and bear fruit
- 2 Timothy 2:15 — Study to show yourself approved
- Acts 2:42–47 — Devotion to teaching, fellowship, generosity

Devotional Point

Formation requires an introspection to recognize the need to do better, the ability to be more, and the conviction to embrace consistency.

Just as roots grow underground, disciples grow through unseen faithfulness.

Theological Illustration

A tree does not bear fruit overnight. It invests silently in its roots. Likewise, disciples invest in practices (prayer, study, worship) that produce visible fruit over time.

Black Excellence Connection (Historical)



- **Howard Thurman** cultivated deep spiritual discipline that shaped the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Fannie Lou Hamer** fused faith, courage, and justice in her discipleship.
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** rooted activism in theological formation and spiritual investment.

Each exemplifies how **deep formation produces public witness**.

Reflection Questions

1. What spiritual habit is God calling me to strengthen?
2. How does abiding in Christ ground my ministry?

2. Missional Engagement: Investment in God's Work Beyond Ourselves

Scriptures

- Matthew 28:18–20 — The Great Commission
- Luke 4:18–19 — Spirit-empowered mission
- Micah 6:8 — Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly
- Philippians 2:1–4 — Look not only to your own interests

Devotional Point

A disciple's life is a living invitation.

Every act of kindness, justice, or encouragement becomes a witness.

Theological Illustration

A single candle in a dark room doesn't eliminate all darkness. However, it changes everything within its reach. Disciples do the same.

Black Excellence Connection (Biblical / Africana)

- **Joseph in Egypt:** a Hebrew living in Africa who stewarded power ethically (Gen 41).
- **Queen Candace's court official:** an African leader who embraced the gospel and carried it home (Acts 8).
- **John Lewis, Shirley Chisholm, Bryan Stevenson:** investing energy, service, and presence into justice and human dignity.

3. Faithful Commitment: Investing in the House of God

Scriptures

- Psalm 92:13 — Planted in God's house, they flourish
- Nehemiah 4:6 — The people had a mind to work
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 — Be steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord
- Malachi 3:10 — Investment in the storehouse

Devotional Point

Commitment is not seasonal. It is covenantal.

We don't commit because things are perfect; we commit because God is faithful.

Theological Illustration

Nehemiah rebuilt the wall with imperfect people in imperfect conditions, yet progress happened because the people agreed: "*We will build together.*"

Black Excellence Connection

- **The Historically Black Church** itself stands as a century-long testimony of commitment built by enslaved, freed, and marginalized people who invested prayer, sweat, blood, money, songs, and sacrifice.
- Figures like **Richard Allen**, founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, turned spiritual commitment into generational institutional legacy.

Quarter 1: January–March 2026

“Alignment: Investing the Heart”

“Seek first the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33)

Spiritual Aim:

To realign our **hearts, habits, and priorities** with Christ and the mission of the church.

Key Emphasis

- Spiritual disciplines
- Consistent presence
- Recommitment to stewardship

Investment Commitments

Presence

- Attend weekly worship consistently (target: 90% participation)
- Attend at least **three Bible studies and Sunday School gatherings**
- Commit to daily prayer (minimum 20 minutes)

Ministry

- Reaffirm or reassign ministry role with clarity
- Participate in one ministry endeavor with a new heart

Witness

- Identify **three people** outside of your house to pray for daily

- Initiate at least **one faith-centered conversation** per month with someone outside of the ministry and family

Stewardship

- Make a clear, prayerful decision regarding **faithful tithing**
- Set up consistent, authentic giving (weekly/bi-weekly/monthly)

Reflection Question

What does my current investment reveal about my discipleship priorities?

Next Week's Lesson: "*Visible Membership vs. Invisible Discipleship - Watching and Praying as an Excuse for only Watching and Praying.*"