

MODULE 1 - TUTOR: PASTOR KOLA TAIWO

Course Presentation Outline

DISCIPLESHIP AND ITS IMPACT ON THE CHURCH

WHO IS A DISCIPLE?

- A disciple is a learner who attaches themselves to a teacher in order to be formed by their teaching, values, and way of life.
 - More than a student (in that they learn a life). They adopt a pattern.
- A disciple learns through relationship
 - It happens by watching, imitating, and walking with the teacher.
- A disciple submits to formation
 - They allow their thinking, character, habits, and priorities to be shaped.
- A disciple lives out what is learned
 - Learning is proved by embodiment
- A disciple represents the teacher
 - Disciples eventually become living expressions of the one they follow, carrying their message, values, and methods into the world.

Module 1 – Part 1

CONTENT (WHAT WE SHALL COVER)

- **WHO IS JESUS — Part 1.1**
- **MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST — Part 1.2**
- **THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP IN THE CHURCH 1.3**
- **IDENTIFYING GOD’S CALLING ON YOU — Part 1.4**

Part 1.1 WHO IS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

- Bro Gbile Akanni's definition ...

“One who has been conquered by Christ and now lives to make Christ known and reproduced in others”

- A simple and memorable definition ...

“Christ-possessed, Christ-patterned and Christ-propagating”

Part 1:1 — Who Is Jesus?

- The question ***“Who is Jesus?”*** is relevant because everything in Christianity rises or falls on the answer.
 - If Jesus is merely a ***teacher***, His ***words inspire***; if He is ***the Son of God***, His ***words command obedience and redefine life itself***.
 - ***Who Jesus is*** determines ***what salvation means***, who God is like, and what it means to be truly human.
- The question ***“who is a disciple of Christ?”*** is equally relevant.

1. Central Identity of Jesus:- Colossians 1:15–17 (NKJV)

“15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”

- **Central figure of Christianity — Acts 4:12 (NKJV)**

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- the exclusive source of salvation
- the defining reference point of the faith
- the non-replaceable centre of Christian belief

- **Son of God - Matthew 16:16 (NKJV)**

“Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

This verse stands as a direct confession of Jesus' identity as the Son of God—***spoken, affirmed, and foundational.***

- **Saviour of humanity**

John 3:16 (NKJV) - *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* –

1 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV) - *“For to this [end] we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is [the] Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.”*

The above verses provide us with the scope (**humanity**) and the source (**Jesus Christ**) of salvation.

- **Known by many titles - Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)**

“ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

This verse gathers multiple titles into one prophetic declaration, revealing the fullness of who He is.

2. His Divine Nature

- **FULLY God:**

- **John 1:1 (NKJV)** *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
- **Colossians 2:9 (NKJV)** *“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”*

- **COEQUAL** with the Father and the Holy Spirit (**John 1:1; Col. 2:9**)

- ***with God; dwells all***

- **Eternal (John 1:1; Col. 2:9) In the beginning**

- **Revelation 1:8 (NKJV)** *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

- **Participates in creation and redemption —**

- i. **John 1:3 (NKJV)** *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

- → *Christ as agent of creation.*

- ii. **Colossians 1:16–17 (NKJV)** *“For by Him all things were created... all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*

- → *Christ as creator, sustainer, and goal of creation.*

- iii. **Hebrews 9:12 (NKJV)** *“Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*

- → *Christ as redeemer through His own work and sacrifice.*

3. His Human Nature

- Fully human through the incarnation (Heb. 2:9)
- Born of the Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:23)
- Experienced human life yet without sin (Heb. 4:15)

4. His Saving Work (The Saviour)

- Came to save and reconcile humanity (Matt. 1:21)
- Perfect sacrifice for sin (Heb. 2:17–18)
- Defeated sin, death, and evil (Heb. 2:14)
- Opened the way to eternal life (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8–10)

5. His Kingship and Lordship

- Risen and ascended King (Rev. 19:16)
- Will return to judge and establish His kingdom (Acts 1:11)
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

6. Summary

- **Jesus unites divine authority and sacrificial love**

- **John 10:18 (NKJV)** *“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”*

- Authority exercised through willing self-sacrifice
- **Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)** *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, [and] coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to [the point of] death, even the death of the cross.”*
- Godhead authority expressed in humility and love.
- **True disciples follow Him through revelation and life transformation**
 - **Matthew 16:17-18 (NKJV)** *“Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed [this] to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”*
 - Discipleship begins with divine revelation, not human insight.
 - **John 8:31–32 (NKJV)** *“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
 - Ongoing abiding produces transformation.
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)** *“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*
 - Revelation leads to progressive life transformation.

MATTHEW — CHRIST THE KING (Kingdom & Authority)

1. Son of David	9. Shepherd of Israel
2. Son of Abraham	10. Son of Man (with authority)
3. King of the Jews	11. Bridegroom
4. Emmanuel (God with us)	12. Stone rejected by the builders
5. Christ (the Anointed One)	13. Cornerstone

6. King of the kingdom of the heavens 7. Greater than the temple 8. Lord of the Sabbath	14. Son of God (acknowledged by Gentiles) 15. Judge of the nations
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MARK — CHRIST THE SLAVE-SAVIOR (Service & Action)

16. Servant (Slave) of God 17. Son of God (declared in power) 18. Holy One of God 19. Carpenter 20. Physician 21. Lord 22. Son of Man (serving) 23. Suffering Servant	24. Ransom for many 25. Mighty One 26. Doer of God's will
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LUKE — CHRIST THE MAN-SAVIOR (Humanity & Redemption)

27. Son of Man (emphasized strongly) 28. Savior 29. Redeemer 30. Horn of salvation 31. Dayspring from on high 32. Prophet 33. Great Prophet 34. Friend of sinners	35. Bridegroom 36. Good Samaritan (parabolic title) 37. Lord of all 38. Righteous One 39. Consolation of Israel 40. Light for revelation to the Gentiles
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JOHN — CHRIST THE SON OF GOD (Life & Dispensing)

41. Word (Logos)	50. Good Shepherd
42. Only Begotten Son	51. Resurrection
43. Lamb of God	52. Life
44. Son of God	53. Way
45. Son of the Father	54. Truth
46. I AM	55. Vine (true Vine)
47. Bread of Life	56. King of Israel
48. Light of the world	57. Christ (Messiah)
49. Door of the sheep	58. Giver of living water

MODULE 1 – PART 2

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Biblically, it points to:

- **The loss of Eden — intimate communion with God**
 - **Genesis 3:8** — “*And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...*”

This verse points to the intimate communion with God that was lost through the Fall.
- **The loss of innocence — corruption of human nature**
 - **Genesis 3:7** — “*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked...*”

This verse captures the loss of innocence and the corruption of human nature that followed the **Fall**.

- **The loss of authority — dominion surrendered**

- **Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV)** - *“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are,] And to dust you shall return.”*

This passage shows humanity’s loss of dominion, as creation no longer submits willingly but resists under the curse.

- **The loss of life — separation from God, the source of life**

- **Genesis 3:22-24 (NKJV)** - *“Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

These 3 verses depict separation from God, the source of life, resulting in the loss of access to life itself.

The Ministry of Jesus:

Luke 4:18–19. Declares the mission statement of Jesus’ ministry.

Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV)

“The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to [the] poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to [the] captives And recovery of sight to [the] blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

1. **Matthew 4:23.** Summarises His ministry as **teaching, proclaiming, and healing.**

Matthew 4:23 (NKJV) – “*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*”

2. **Mark 10:45.** Reveals the **servant nature and redemptive aim of His ministry.**

Mark 10:45 (NKJV) “*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*”

3. **John 10:10** Shows His ministry as **life-giving and restorative.**

John 10:10 (NKJV) “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly.*”

4. **John 17:4.** Defines His ministry as **obedient completion of the Father’s will.**

John 17:4 (NKJV) “*I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*”

This is the foundation of the Christian faith:

- ***His Teachings***
- ***His Miracles***
- ***His Ultimate Sacrifice***

KEY ASPECTS OF JESUS'S MINISTRY

1. Proclamation of the Kingdom

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17)

Announced God's reign and called for repentance

2. Teaching with Authority

- Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5–7)
- Parables revealing spiritual truths
- Instructions on love, forgiveness, faith, discipleship

3. Miracles and Signs

- Healing the sick
- Delivering the oppressed
- Raising the dead
- Providing for needs
- Authority over nature

4. Compassion for the Marginalised

- Tax collectors, sinners, outcasts
- Women
- Children
- The poor and broken-hearted

5. Training Disciples

- Called the Twelve
- Taught and empowered them
- Gave authority to preach, heal, and cast out demons

6. Confrontation with Religious Leaders

- Challenged hypocrisy and legalism
- Emphasised mercy, justice, humility

7. His Death and Resurrection

- Sacrificial death for sin
- Resurrection proving His divinity and victory over death

8. Commissioning the Church

- The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19–20)

9. Ongoing Ministry

- Through the Holy Spirit working in the Church
 - **John 16:13–14** — The Spirit continues Christ’s speaking and glorifying work
 - **Acts 1:8** — Power given to the Church to continue Christ’s witness
 - **1 Corinthians 12:7** — The Spirit manifests Christ through the body
- Through the lives of believers who engage in a discipleship relationship.
 - **Matthew 28:19–20** — Disciples make disciples, extending Christ’s ministry
 - **Galatians 2:20** — Christ lives His life through believers
 - **2 Timothy 2:2** — Ministry is reproduced through relational discipleship
- Earthly ministry in the Gospels; heavenly ministry in Acts
 - **Acts 1:1** — The Gospels record what Jesus began to do and teach
 - **Acts 2:33** — The exalted Christ continues His ministry from heaven
 - **Ephesians 1:20–23** — Christ rules from heaven, working through His body on earth
- True disciples are the **CONTINUATION OF CHRIST AND HIS MINISTRY** on the Earth today.
 - **John 14:12 (NKJV)** - *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”*
 - → Disciples continue Christ’s works on the earth.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)** – *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”*
 - → Disciples **currently represent Christ Himself** in ongoing ministry.
 - **John 20:21 (NKJV)** – *“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”*
 - → Disciples **are sent** in the same pattern and purpose as Christ.

Finally: Scripture teaches that true disciples are Christ’s sent continuation—His **life**, **work**, and **mission** are expressed through His body (the true church) today.

Module 1- Part 3

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Part 1:3 — The Importance of Discipleship in the Church

- **Discipleship is not optional—it is Christ’s method for building, maturing, and multiplying His Church.**
 - **Ephesians 4:12–13 (NKJV)** “...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...”
 - **Colossians 1:28 (NKJV)** “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”
 - **2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** “...commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

1. Fulfilling the Great Commission — The Church remains mission-focused by obeying Christ’s command to make disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Obedience to Jesus’ command - **John 14:15 (NKJV)** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”
- Keeps the church focused on mission — **Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2. Spiritual Growth and Maturity

- Growth in faith, knowledge, and Christlike character
 - **Ephesians 4:13-15 (NKJV)** - *“till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--.”*
- Mentorship and accountability — Disciples grow through God-ordained relationships where truth is modelled, progress is examined, and faith is reproduced.
 - **Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV)** *“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”*
 - → Mutual sharpening through accountable relationships.
 - **Hebrews 3:12–13 (NKJV)** *“...exhort one another daily... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*
 - → Ongoing accountability guards spiritual health.
 - **2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** *“...commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*
 - → Mentorship that multiplies maturity and faithfulness.

3. Deepening Relationship with Christ — A disciple deepens in Christ not by proximity to ministry, but by abiding, walking, and drawing near to Him daily.

- Abiding in Him
 - **John 15:5 (NKJV)** - *“I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”*
- Drawing strength, wisdom, and purpose
 - **Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)** *“But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength...”*
 - → Strength flows from dependence on God.

4. Empowering for Service

Ephesians 4:12 (NKJV) - *“For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

- Discovering and using spiritual gifts
 - **Romans 12:6 (NKJV)** *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...”*
- Moving from Passive Attendance to Active Service
 - **James 1:22 (NKJV)** - *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

Discipleship empowers believers to discover their gifts and move from merely attending church to actively serving Christ's body.

5. Building a Strong, Unified Church

- **Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)** – *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*
 - Culture of love, accountability, unity
 - Connected and aligned members
- **Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV)** – *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

6. Multiplication of Leaders

- Raising leaders who disciple others: **2 Timothy 2:2 (NKJV)** – *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*
- Ensures long-term growth and health
 - **Acts 2:42 (NKJV)** - *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship...”*

➤ → Persevering discipleship produces a healthy, enduring church.

- Sustained discipleship keeps the Church rooted in Christ, growing in maturity, and healthy for generations.

7. Transforming the World

- Living out the gospel in daily life
- Influencing society with truth and love
- **Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)** - *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

Key Takeaway

- Salvation is free; discipleship is costly (Luke 9:23)
 - **Luke 9:23 (NKJV)** – *“Then He said to [them] all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*

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Identifying God's Calling on You (*In Relation to Discipleship*)

*****Discerning God's calling in the area of discipleship is vital because it aligns your unique gifts, experiences, and passions with His mission to make disciples*****

God Calls To Spiritual Warfare (To follow Christ is to engage in spiritual warfare)

- Every disciple of Christ is called to spiritual warfare because every disciple is called to stand firm in Christ against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

(Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9)

Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare, biblically, is not primarily shouting at demons or “binding spirits over territories.” *(Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8–9)*

- Spiritual Warfare is...
 - 1) Standing in truth
 - 2) Resisting temptation
 - 3) Guarding the mind
 - 4) Walking in holiness
 - 5) Persevering in faith
 - 6) Praying
 - 7) Proclaiming Christ
 - 8) Refusing the lies of Satan.

1. Spiritual warfare is primarily a battle for truth.

Satan's greatest weapon is deception, not geographical occupation. (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:3–4, 2 Ephesians 6:13–17; Colossians 2:8)

2. The armour of God is truth-centred

Every piece of armour relates to the believer's standing in Christ and the Word—not techniques of deliverance. (Ephesians 6:10–18, Isaiah 59:17)

3. Christians are never commanded to bind Satan

There is no New Testament command instructing believers to bind Satan in prayer.

Matthew 12:29; Luke 11:21–22; Revelation 20:1–3, Mark 3:27

4. “Binding the strong man” refers to Christ’s ministry

Jesus described His own authority over Satan, not a ministry entrusted to every believer.

(Matthew 12:28–29)

5. Satan has already been decisively defeated

Believers fight from Christ’s victory, not toward it.

Colossians 2:15, John 12:31, Hebrews 2:14, 1 John 3:8

6. Christ alone disarmed the powers

No believer completes what Christ has already accomplished. (Colossians 2:13–15)

7. Scripture never teaches territorial spirits as a ministry strategy

Daniel 10 describes unseen rulers but never instructs believers to identify or confront them.

(*Daniel 10:12–21*)

8. The apostles never practised territorial warfare

Despite ministering in pagan cities, they preached Christ instead (Acts 16, Acts 17, Acts 19)

9. The Great Commission focuses on disciple-making

Christ sent His Church to proclaim the gospel—not clear regions of demons. If territorial warfare were central, the apostles would have modelled it clearly—but they didn't. They preached Christ, and the demons reacted (*Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15*)

10. Faithful preaching is the Church's offensive weapon

The Word destroys strongholds. It cuts through lies, breaks down pride, and liberates captives. Preach the gospel—and watch the strongholds fall (2 Corinthians 10:3–5; Hebrews 4:12)

11. Strongholds are arguments and false ideas

Paul defines strongholds intellectually rather than geographically (2 Corinthians 10:4–5)

12. The Christian resists Satan rather than rebuking him

Resistance is through steadfast faith. Our weapon against Satan is faith, submission, and the Word—not rebuking him personally. That is the apostles' model (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8–9)

13. Even Michael avoided presumptuous rebuke. Authority belongs to God

"Michael the archangel... did not dare to bring a blasphemous judgment against [Satan], but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" Even an archangel didn't rebuke Satan directly—he deferred to God (Jude 8–10)

14. Satan is powerful but not sovereign

He remains under God's absolute rule. He is a formidable foe—but a defeated one, operating only by divine permission. God's sovereign rule, not our ability to war against the devil counts (Job 1–2, Luke 22:31–32)

15. Demons are real but not omnipresent

Only God possesses omnipresence. Demons can oppress, but they cannot be everywhere at once. Their power is finite; God's is infinite. This is why we resist through faith (James 4:7), not fear—we serve the One who is truly present everywhere (Psalm 139, Revelation 12)

16. Christians belong to Christ's kingdom

Believers have already been transferred from darkness. The Christian's identity is secure in Christ's kingdom. Darkness has no dominion over us—only God does. Our resistance is from a position of safety, not a struggle for survival (Colossians 1:13-14).

17. Every believer possesses the Holy Spirit

Therefore, Christians cannot simultaneously belong to Satan's kingdom. If the Spirit dwells in you, you are sealed (Eph 1:13). Satan cannot reclaim what God has purchased. Our battle is resisting external attacks, not fearing internal takeover (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

18. Scripture gives no basis for generational curses on believers

Christ became our curse. In Christ, we are a new creation (2 Cor 5:17). The curse is broken—period. Our inheritance is a blessing, not a curse (Galatians 3:13, Ezekiel 18, Jeremiah 31:29-30)

19. Personal responsibility replaces inherited guilt

Each person answers for his own sin. You cannot blame your ancestors for your sin, nor can you claim their righteousness. Each person stands before God alone—and in Christ, each is offered a fresh start (Ezekiel 18:20, Deuteronomy 24:16).

20. The believer is a new creation

The believer is not a repaired version of the old self—but a brand new creation. The old is gone. You are not defined by your past, your family, or your failures. You are defined by Christ. And in Him, bondage is decisively, eternally broken (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:1-14)

21. Sanctification is not repeated deliverance

Sanctification is the normal Christian life—growth through the Spirit, the Word, and community. It is not a cycle of defeat, deliverance, and relapse. The believer has been delivered once from darkness (Col 1:13); now we grow in holiness (John 17:17, Romans 12:1, Philippians 2:12-13)

22. Demonic explanations must not replace biblical diagnosis

Many struggles arise from remaining sin rather than demons. Demonic explanations must not replace biblical diagnosis—but neither must they be excluded from it. Discernment, not dogmatism, is the biblical path (James 1:13–15, Galatians 5:16-24).

23. Satan primarily deceives

His greatest battlefield is the mind. Satan's greatest victory is not possession—it is persuasion. If he can make you believe a lie, you will serve him willingly. The believer's defence is the Word of God—truth that exposes and destroys the lie (Genesis 3, Corinthians 11:3, Revelation 12:9)

24. The gospel liberates

Freedom comes through Christ's truth. The gospel does not merely offer freedom—it is freedom. Christ does not point to liberation; He is liberation. To know Him is to know the truth. To know the truth is to be free. And if the Son sets you free—you are free indeed (John 8:31-32, John 8:36).

25. Prayer is dependence upon God—not spiritual combat techniques

Prayer is dependence upon God, not a method of binding Satan. Scripture presents prayer as the posture of those who stand in Christ's victory, relying wholly on God's strength. And it brings peace, not exhaustion, because the battle belongs to the Lord (Exodus 14:14, Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7).

26. Christ's authority is not a formula

Christ's authority is not a tool to wield but a reality to live. True authority comes from abiding in Christ and walking in obedience—not merely invoking His name. The sons of Sceva show that knowing the words without knowing Christ accomplishes nothing (Acts 19:13-17).

27. Scripture is sufficient for spiritual warfare

God has given everything necessary for life and godliness (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3).

28. The Church's mission is proclamation, not demon mapping

The apostolic pattern is preaching Christ crucified —and let the demons scramble. Demons do not need to be identified regionally or "mapped." They need to be out - Reaches (1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Romans 10:14-17).

29. Victory is standing firm in Christ

The repeated command in Ephesians is not "attack" but "stand." The command is "stand"—not "attack". Victory is not storming hell's gates; it is holding the ground Christ already won. Faithful obedience of standing firm in Christ is all that is needed. The battle is the Lord's—we just need to hold our ground (Ephesians 6:11, 13, 14).

30. Why is there warfare at all?

Satan hates above everything else, Christ being expressed fully in His people:

- Being formed in believers (Galatians 4:19)
- Becoming Head in the Church (Ephesians 1:22–23)
- Manifesting God's purpose (Ephesians 3:10–11)
- Saints living from union with Christ (Colossians 3:1-4)
- God's image restored in humanity (Romans 8:29)

Key Steps to help identify God's calling in relation to Discipleship

1. Seek God in Prayer

- Begin by asking God to reveal His purpose for you in discipleship
- *James 1:5* promises, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him"
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2. Reflect on Your Spiritual Gifts

- Your spiritual gifts often indicate how God has equipped you to disciple others
- Gifts such as teaching, encouragement, shepherding, or leadership can guide your approach to discipleship (*Romans 12:6-8; 1 Peter 4:10*)

3. Examine Your Life Experiences

- God often uses your life experiences, both victories and challenges, to shape your calling.
- Reflect on how your journey can help others grow in their faith (*2 Corinthians 1:3-4*)

4. Engaged with Scripture

- God's Word provides the framework for discipleship
- Verses such as Matthew 28:19-20, John 13:34-35, and 2 Timothy 2:2 provide guidance on the principles and responsibilities of making disciples.

5. Serve and Observe

- Take small steps to engage in discipleship
- Join a Bible study group, mentor a new believer, or lead in a ministry setting
- Often, your calling becomes clear as you serve and see where God's grace flows through you effectively (*Colossians 3:23-24*)

6. Listen to Godly Counsel

- Seek insight from mature believers or spiritual leaders who know you well
- Proverbs 15:22 says, "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counsellors they are established"
- Trusted mentors can help you discern God's calling

7. Pay Attention to Your Passion

- What burdens your heart?
- Are you drawn to teaching, mentoring youth, evangelism, or fostering community?
- God often stirs passion in areas where He calls us to serve (*Philippians 2:13*)

8. Remain Open to Growth

- Discipleship is not static—it requires continual growth in Christ (*2 Peter 3:18*)
- Trust God to refine your calling over time and prepare you for greater impact

Identifying God's call in discipleship is about aligning your unique gifts, experiences, and passions with His mission. By seeking God's guidance, serving faithfully, and remaining open to His leading, you can find your role in building His kingdom and helping others grow in their walk with Christ.

