Discipleship Series

Discipleship: Call of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20)

- 1. It's a Plain Call
- 2. It's a Personal Call
- 3. It's a Powerful Call
- 4. It's a Pivotal Call

Discipleship: Command of Christ (Luke 14:25-35)

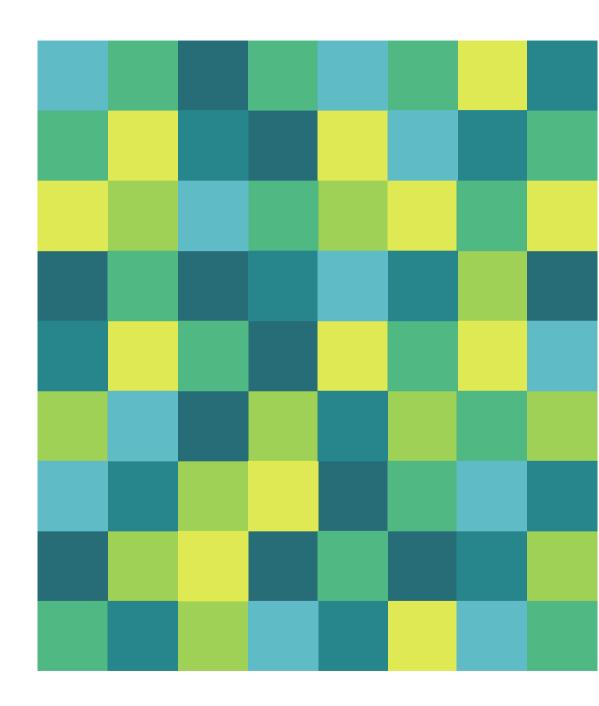
- 1. Discipleship is a command to love God above all
- 2. Discipleship is a command to bear the cross of Christ
- 3. Discipleship is to forsake everything (Luke 9:57-62)

Discipleship: Concept of Christ

- 1. The Concept of Abiding in Christ (John 15:1-8)
- 2. The Concept of Building Relationships (John 1:34-51)
- 3. The Concept of Applying the Word (2 Timothy 3:14-17)
 - a. How to Study (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - b. How to Teach (Nehemiah 8:1-8)
- 4. The Concept of Evangelising the Lost (Matthew 9:35-39)
- 5. The Concept of Multiplying Spiritually (2 Timothy 2:1-3)
- 6. The Concept of Mentoring Leaders (Mark 3:13-19)

The Concept of Abiding in Christ (John 15:1-8)

The Meaning of Abiding in Christ



66

Christ uses the picture of a vineyard. In it are are key items which represent vital aspects in the life of a disciple of Christ

The Vine

- The source of all the branches
- The vine is where the branches connect because it is the one which gives life to them
- The picture of the vine here is one that is large and strong
- The vine is Jesus Christ (v1)

The Branches

- The ones that connect to the vine
- The branch cannot reproduce its own life; it must draw that life from the vine
- The branches are either good for bearing fruit (v
 2) or good for burning (v 6)
- The branches are the disciples of Christ (v 2, 5)

The Vinedresser

- The in charge of caring for the vines and branches
- The vinedresser has 2 primary actions: purging and pruning
- The progression is: no fruit, fruit, more fruit, much fruit
- The vinedresser is the Father (v 1)

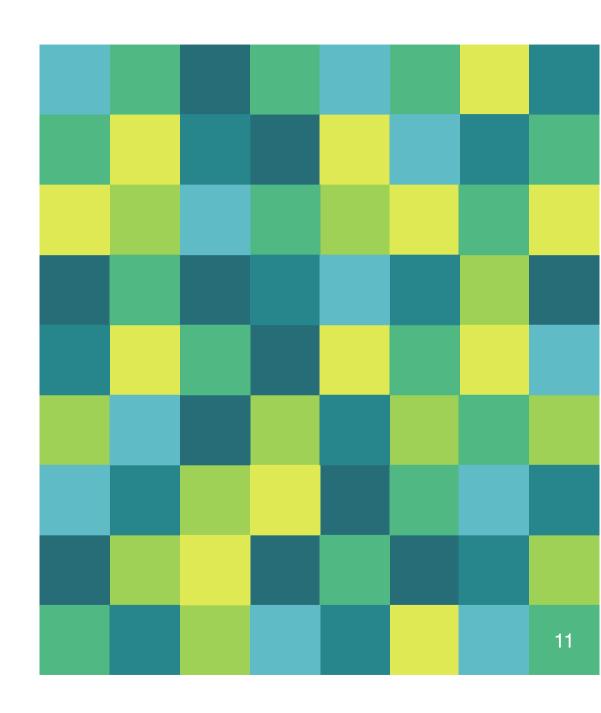
"Abide"

(continue or remain) appears 11 times

"In Christ"

77 times in the NT

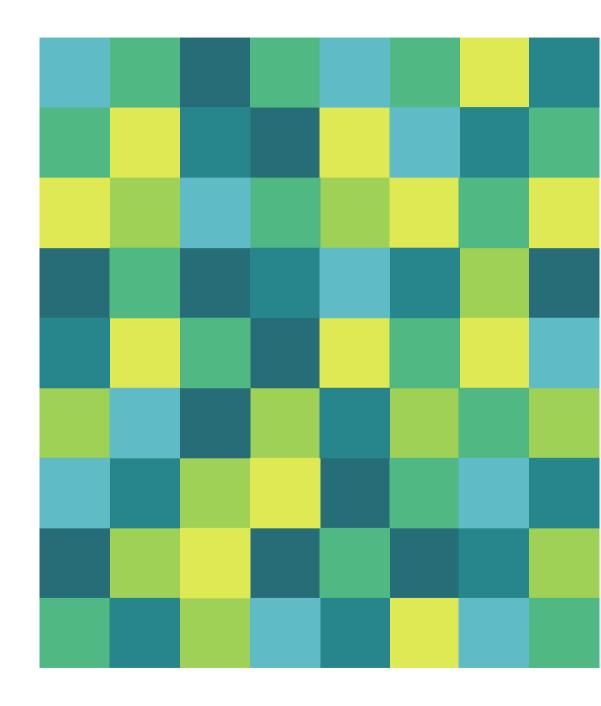
7-9 times in John 15



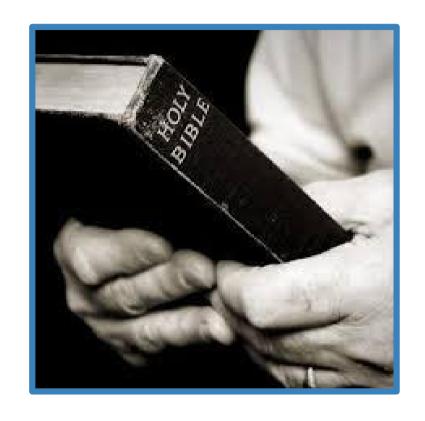
Abiding in Christ is to keep in fellowship with Christ so that His life can work in and through us to produce fruit

- Dr. Warren Weirsbe -

2. The Manner of Abiding in Christ



A. Cleansing through the Word (v 3, 7) "clean through the Word"



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When we recognize the Bible as foundational

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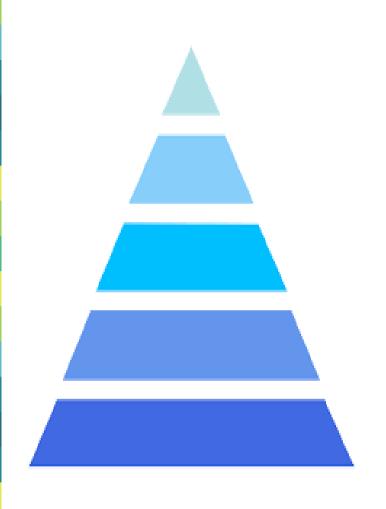
- When we recognize the Bible as foundational
- When our instruction originates in the Bible

√ This requirement demonstrates commitment to the sufficiency of Scripture (II Peter 1:3, John 17:17)

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- ✓ Beware of psychologically-based ideas that are "retrofit" to sound biblical



Practical Theology

Biblical/Systematic Theology

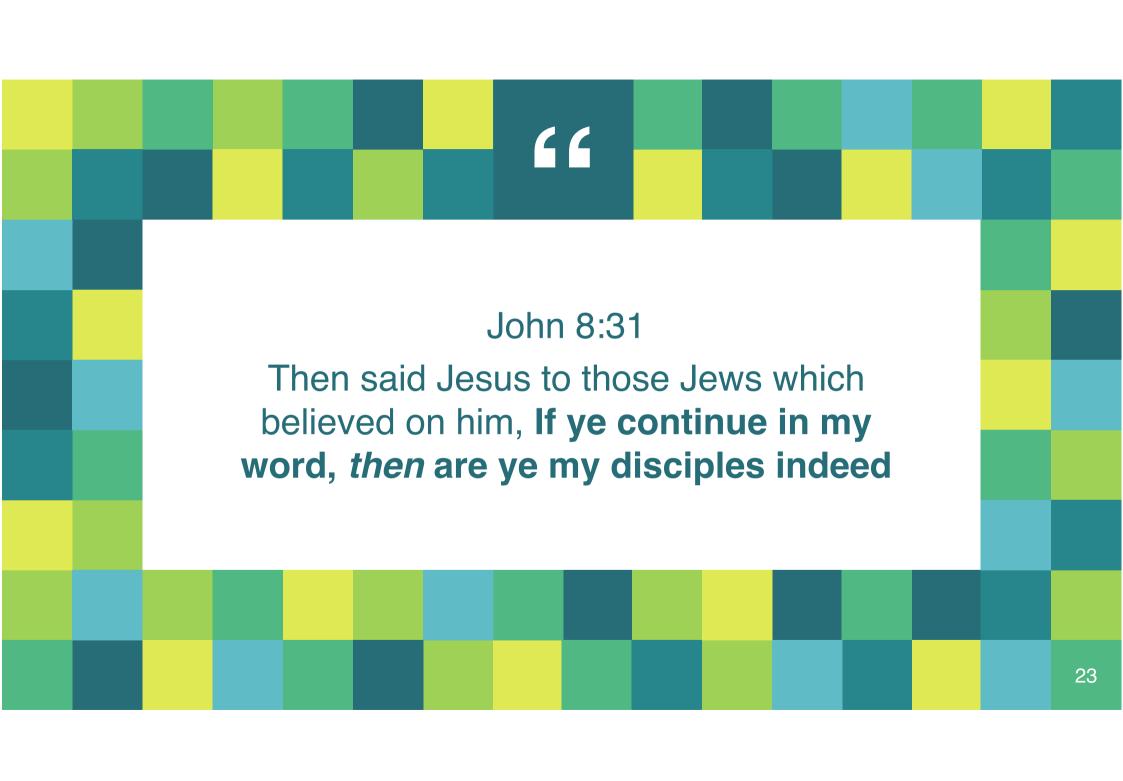
Exegesis

Hermeneutics

Authority

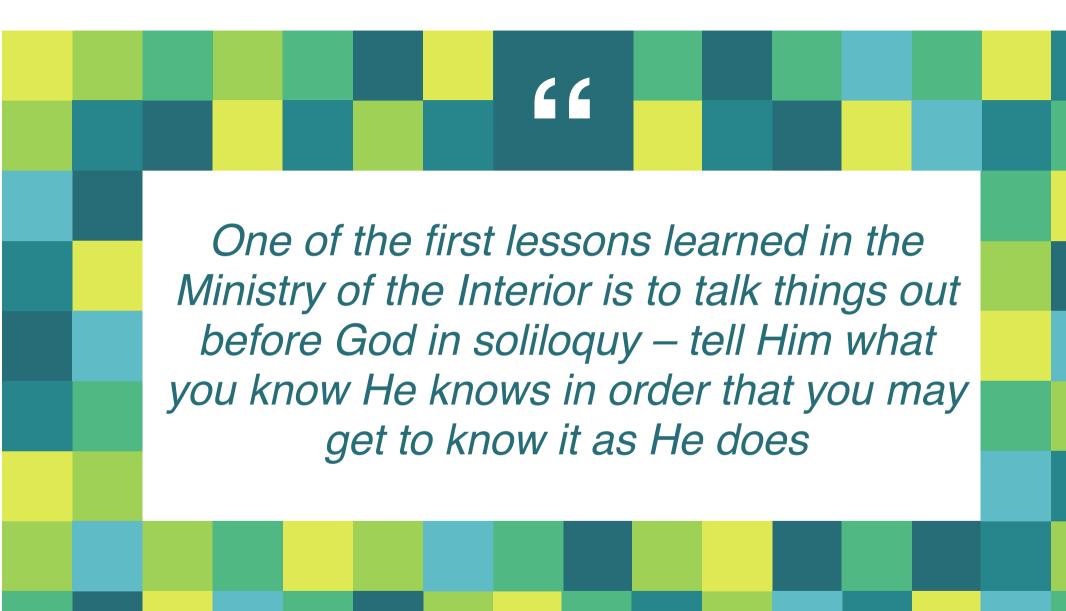
What Makes a Biblical Church truly Biblical?

- When we recognize the Bible as foundational
- When our instruction originates in the Bible
- When its prescriptions reinforce biblical disciplines



B. Communion through Prayer (v 7) "ye shall ask"





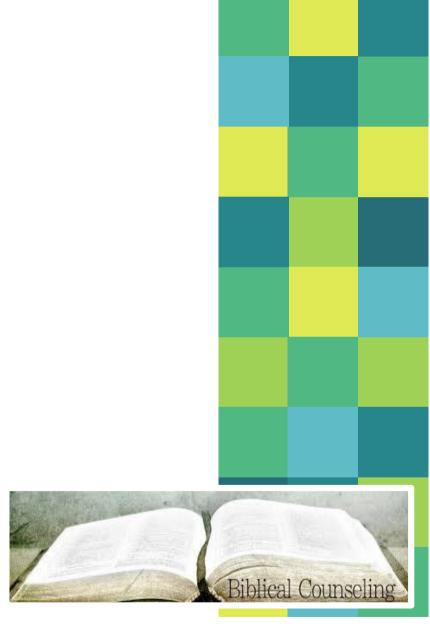
Acts 6:4

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.



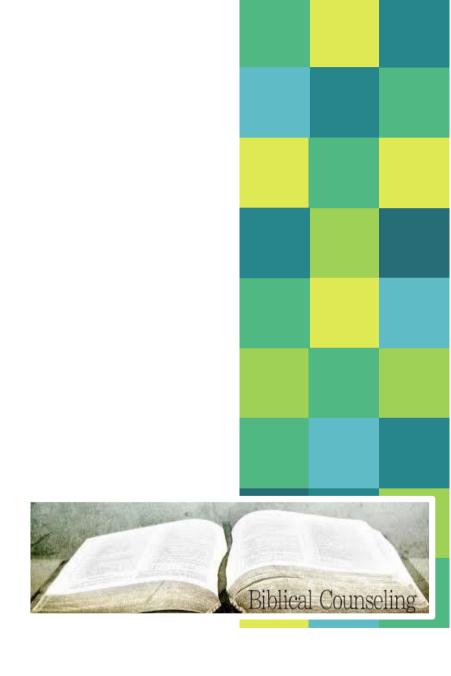
Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;



I Thessalonians 5:17

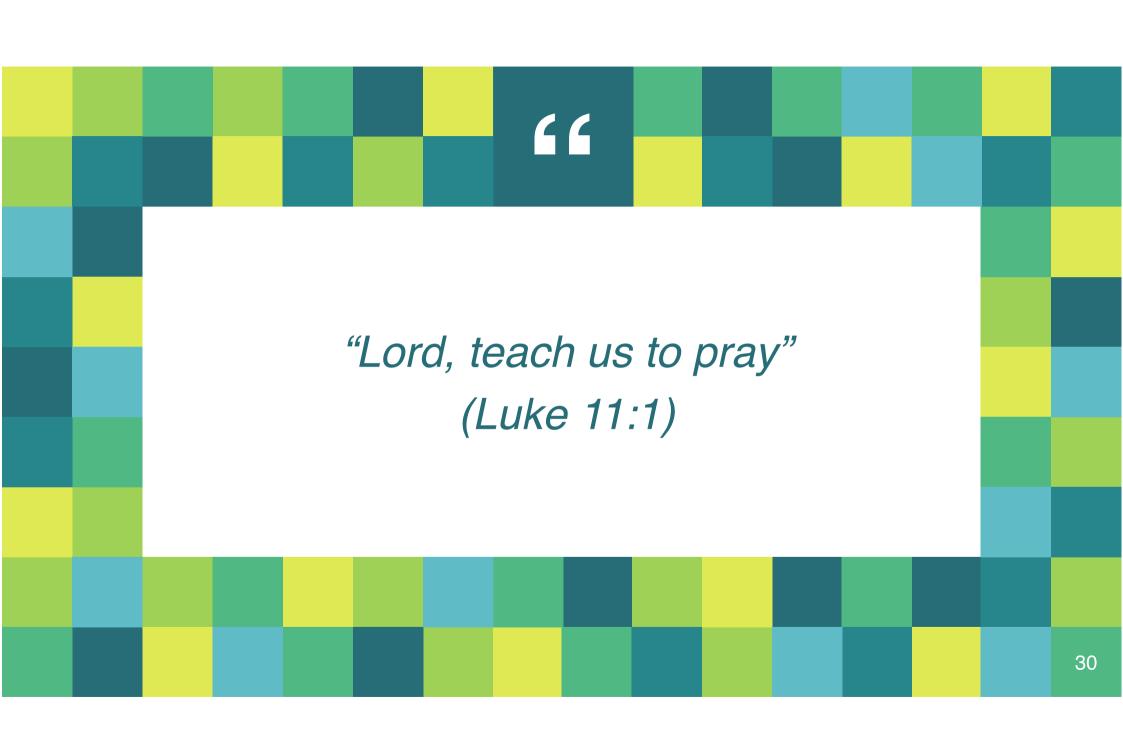
Pray without ceasing.



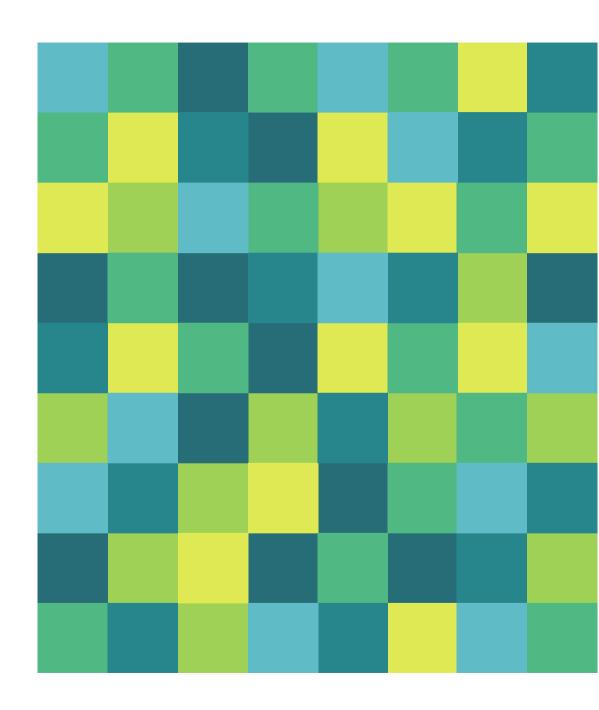
A disciple of Christ must be a Spirit dependent and Spirit filled follower (Ephesians 5:18)

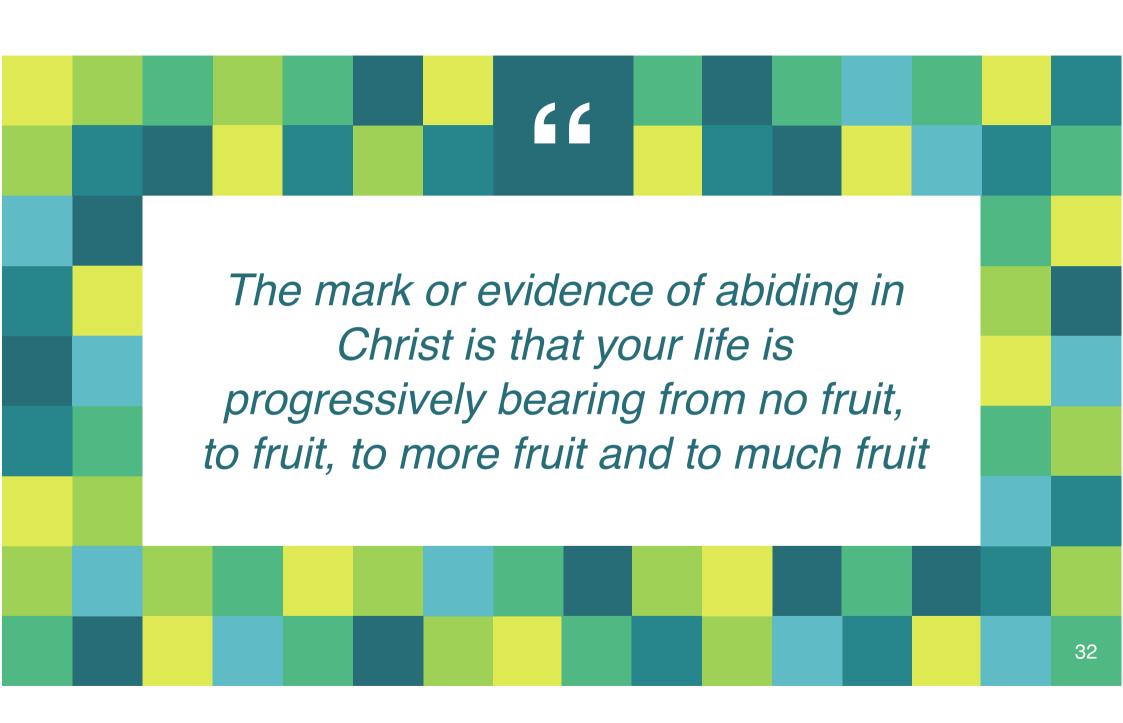
A prayerful disciple is a spirit filled disciple

The ministry of discipleship is not to be done in the strength of the flesh but in the power of the Spirit



3. The Mark of Abiding in Christ (v 2, 5)





The Bible names different kinds of spiritual fruit

- √ Soul won for Christ (Romans 1:13)
- √ Holiness and obedience (Romans 6:22)
- √ Christian giving (Romans 15:28)
- √ Fruit of the Spirit in our Character (Gal 5:22-23)
- √ Christian service (Col 1:10)
- ✓ Praise from our hearts and lips to the glory of God (Heb 13:15)

Many of these things could be counterfeited by the flesh but the deception would eventually be detected, for real spiritual fruit has in it the seeds for more fruit. Man-made results are dead and cannot reproduce themselves, but Spirit-produced fruit will go on reproducing from one life to another

- Dr. Warren Weirsbe -

Discipleship Values...



....abiding in Christ by diligently studying the Word, faithfully communing in prayer and dependently living in the Spirit so as to live a life that is progressively fruitful.