

Discipleship #3: Establish Part II and Equip



5. Foundation #5: Worship and Prayer

- **Worship:** true worship involves the continual laying down of one's entire life to live according to God's will and ways, as well as the continuous proclamation of His greatness. (Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 96; Psalm 150)
 - Cultivating a lifestyle of worship is critical for believers; for it is when we worship that we connect with God on a heart level and realign our affections to be set on Him.
 - We are to worship and come into God's presence with praise and thanksgiving. (Psalm 100:4-5)
 - There are several different expressions of praise throughout Scripture. A few examples: singing, shouting, dancing, playing instruments, etc. (Psalm 100:2; Psalm 150; Psalm 47:1; II Samuel 6:14-16)
 - Praise is one of the greatest weapons and battle strategies that God has given us to use against Satan. (II Chronicles 20:21-24; Psalm 149:6-9)
 - Praise enables us to overcome trials and endure through suffering. (Acts 16:25-26; James 1:2)
 - We are to worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23)
 - We are to worship God with clean hands and pure heart. (Psalm 24:3-6)
 - We worship God when we love Him with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27)

- We worship God when we live according to His Word and ways. (Romans 12:1)
 - This involves the choices we make, the words we speak, how we love and relate to others, and how we steward our time, talent, and finances.
- Prayer: a two-way conversation with God, just as you would talk with a friend. Prayer is something we do privately and corporately with other believers.

6. Foundation #6: The Church and Fellowship

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another...

- None of the original disciples followed Jesus alone.
 - Following Him meant following along with other disciples. (1 John 1:7)
 - “Fellowship” is the Greek word “koinonia” which means, Christ-centered relationships and friendships that enhance spiritual growth.
- Biblical fellowship is more than greeting a few church members in the lobby before or after a worship service. True fellowship is doing life together. (Acts 2:42)
- God designed discipleship to occur through fellowship in the context of a spiritual family, which is found in the local church. (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25)
- The community of believers helps to solidify us in God’s family. (Acts 2:42-47)

THE BENEFITS OF FELLOWSHIPPING WITH OTHERS

There are a variety of amazing benefits that come from fellowshiping with other believers on a regular basis.

1. We mature in fellowship. (Hebrews 12:8)
2. We are fed in fellowship. (Ephesians 4:14-16)
3. We are defined in fellowship. (1 Corinthians 12:14, 18)
4. We are protected in fellowship. (Acts 20:28-29)
5. We bear fruit in fellowship. (John 15:5)

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

It is not enough to simply fellowship with other believers. God calls each of us to individually plant ourselves by putting down roots in a local church.

1. We must put down roots if we want to grow.
(Psalm 92:13- 14)
2. God provides a wonderful home and prosperous future for people who will humble themselves and fellowship with others within a spiritual family.
(Psalm 68:6)

To Discuss:

1. Which of the Six Foundations discussed last week and today would you like to grow in more personally? How can you strengthen that foundation in your own life?
2. How has being rooted in a spiritual family affected your life for the better? Is there anyone you know right now that you can help get planted in the local church? What practical step will you take to help them?

Equip: “to furnish for serving or action with appropriate provisions.”¹

He gave apostles, prophets, evangelists... for the equipping of the saints.

Ephesians 4:11-12

Leaders are called to help equip saints to do ministry. As disciple makers, it is important to equip those you are ministering to, so they can help others follow Christ. (Disciple-Making Disciples)

THE MYTH OF MATURITY

- Which comes first, maturity or ministry?
 - Spiritual progress, not perfection, qualifies a person to minister. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- The job of the five-fold ministry is to prepare others to minister, not to do all the ministry (verse 11). They are the **MENTORS**.
- The job of the people is to do the work of service (verse 12). They are the **MINISTERS**.

¹ Merriam-Webster Dictionary

- The result of this process is attaining the fullness of Christ (verse 13). This is **MATURITY**.
- Discipleship helps get ministry out of the hands of the “experts” and into the hands of every believer.

HOW: EQUIP ALL BELIEVERS TO MINISTER

- Because God called every member to be a minister, all believers must be equipped in basic ministry skills.
- God’s word is the ultimate equipping tool.
 - **II Timothy 3:16-17:**
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- Leaders equip God’s people to make disciples.
 - Do you spend more time and energy ministering to people or preparing people to minister?
- Mentoring is a primary component of leadership.
 - Ananias mentored Paul when he was a new believer.
 - Elijah mentored Elisha.
 - Moses mentored Joshua.
 - Paul mentored Timothy.

Practical ways of equipping to minister

- Give them the right tools.
- *God Test, One2One, Purple Book*
- Equipping should happen simultaneously with Establishing.
 - Always remind them that you are teaching them things that they will teach someone else.
- Equip them by doing ministry with them.
 - Take them to a college campus or park to do God Tests.
 - Take them with you as you follow up a new believer.
 - Involve them in leadership in your life group.
- Equip them to share the Gospel with others.
 - 2 -Minute Miracle, SALT method, God Test

- Help them discover their unique spiritual gifts.
 - Spiritual Gifts assessment:
<http://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm>)
 - Strengths Finder: Now, Discover Your Strengths by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton
 - Connect them to others with similar gifts for mentoring.

To Discuss:

1. Do you see yourself as a minister? Why or why not?
2. What are some ways you are equipping people in your life right now? What are some areas you would like to grow in to be more effective in equipping people to minister?