

CHARACTER STUDIES

Let the Word of God Disciple you



In Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to make disciples. Some of us are fortunate enough to have “spiritual mothers and fathers” who teach us, guide us, praying with and for us. Many of us, however, do not have these kinds of relationships. There are times, then, when we need to seek counsel on our own, approaching people who exemplify qualities and character traits we would like to possess, and asking them to teach us in specific areas. Here are some questions we can ask as we begin to think about whom to pursue.

Who has character traits that I would like to have? What are those traits?

Whose marriage do I admire? What about it impresses me?

Who has the same spiritual gifts that I have?

Who has similar talents as mine, and how do they use them for the Kingdom of God?

We can also turn to the Word of God for counsel and guidance. Here are some possible questions to ask when studying a Biblical character. Examine their lives and allow them to “disciple” you.

- Which Bible character(s) do I admire?
- What character qualities did they possess that I would like to develop?
- What were their life circumstances which stimulated personal growth?
- How did they respond to these circumstances?
- How did they interact with God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?
- How did they interact with people?
- How did they interact with authorities?
- Describe their family relationships?
- Did they have role models or people who disciplined them?
- What kinds of words do we hear them saying, i.e. what was in their hearts that motivated such words?
- What kinds of spiritual disciplines did they practice, i.e., prayer, fasting, Scripture, meditation, worship, etc.?
- How did they practice their faith in God?
- When were they quick to obey God? When were they slow to obey God?
- Were they quick to repent when sin was exposed?
- What patterns of behavior do we observe in their lives?
- What did they appear to be afraid of?
- Were there times when they were totally dependent upon God? Compare and contrast their circumstances and responses to similar situations in my life.
- Were they quick to forgive?
- Did they ever compromise the Truth?
- How did they fear the Lord? How did they fear of man?