

Submission & Service

Intercession & the Great Commission

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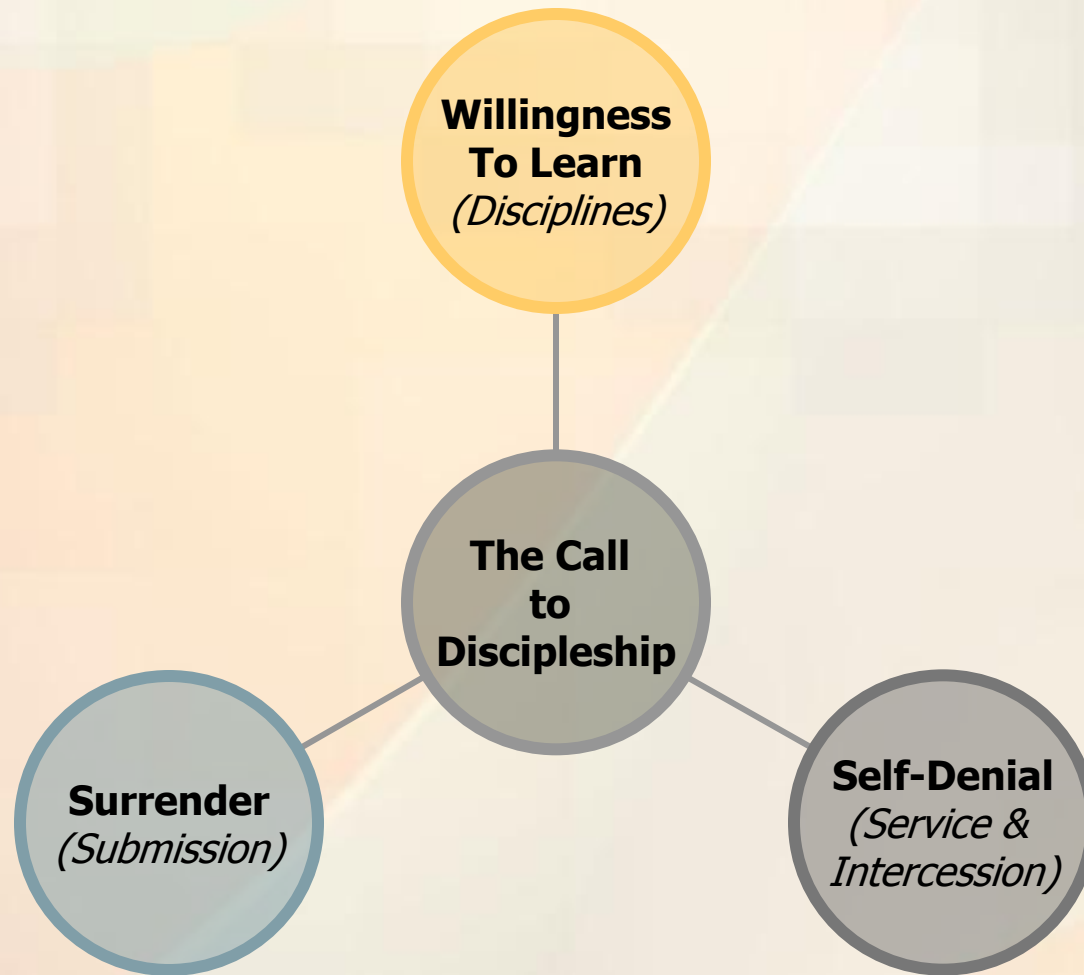
The Call to Go Deeper



The word *discipleship* and the word *discipline* are the same word -- that has always fascinated me. Once you have made the choice to say, "Yes, I want to follow Jesus," the question is, "What disciplines will help me remain faithful to that choice?" If we want to be disciples of Jesus, we have to live a disciplined life.

- Henri Nouwen

Presentation Outline



The Great Commission

"...All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo; I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20



The Nature of Discipleship



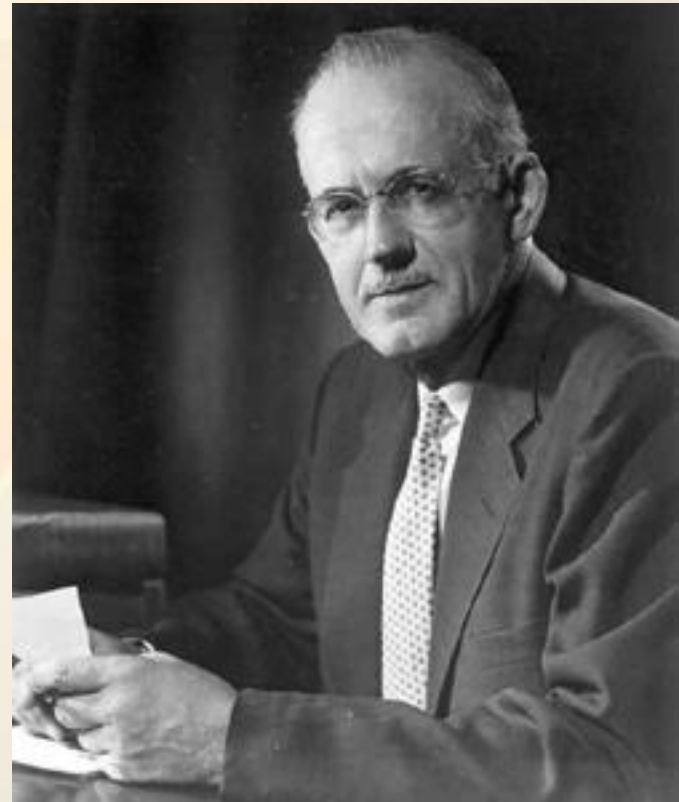
Dallas Willard states:

"A disciple or apprentice, then, is simply someone who has decided to be with another person, under appropriate conditions, in order to become capable of doing what that person does or to become what that person is."

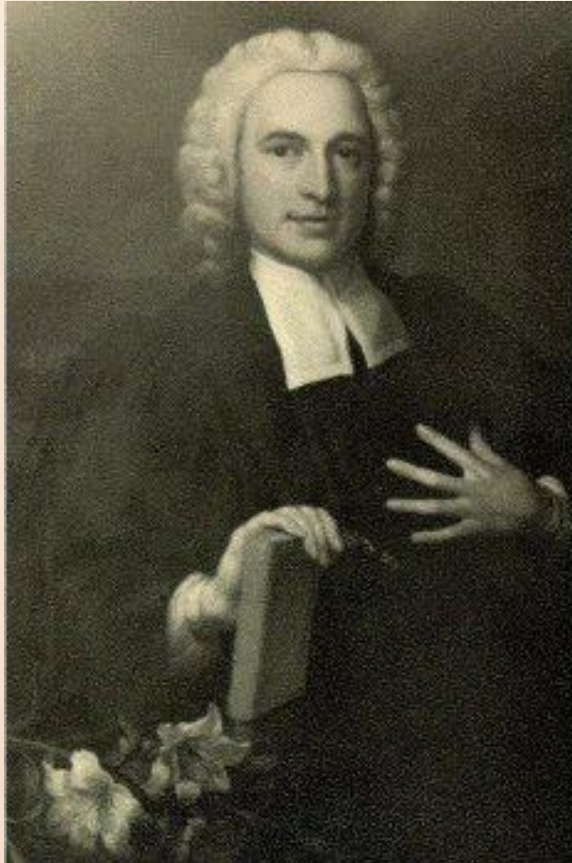
The Nature of Discipleship

"...feeling that a notable heresy has come into being throughout evangelical Christian circles--the widely-accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need him as Saviour and that we have the right to postpone our obedience to him as Lord as long as we want to!..."

- A.W. Tozer



The Nature of Discipleship



Charles Wesley once stated that:

"...fearing to fall into the ditch of preaching salvation by works, we have fallen into the ditch of proclaiming a salvation that results in no works..."

The Nature of Discipleship

Dallas Willard states:

"...This 'heresy' of salvation apart from obedience has created the impression that it is quite reasonable to be a "vampire Christian." One in effect says to Jesus: "I'd like a little of your blood, please. But I don't care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won't you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I'll see you in heaven...."



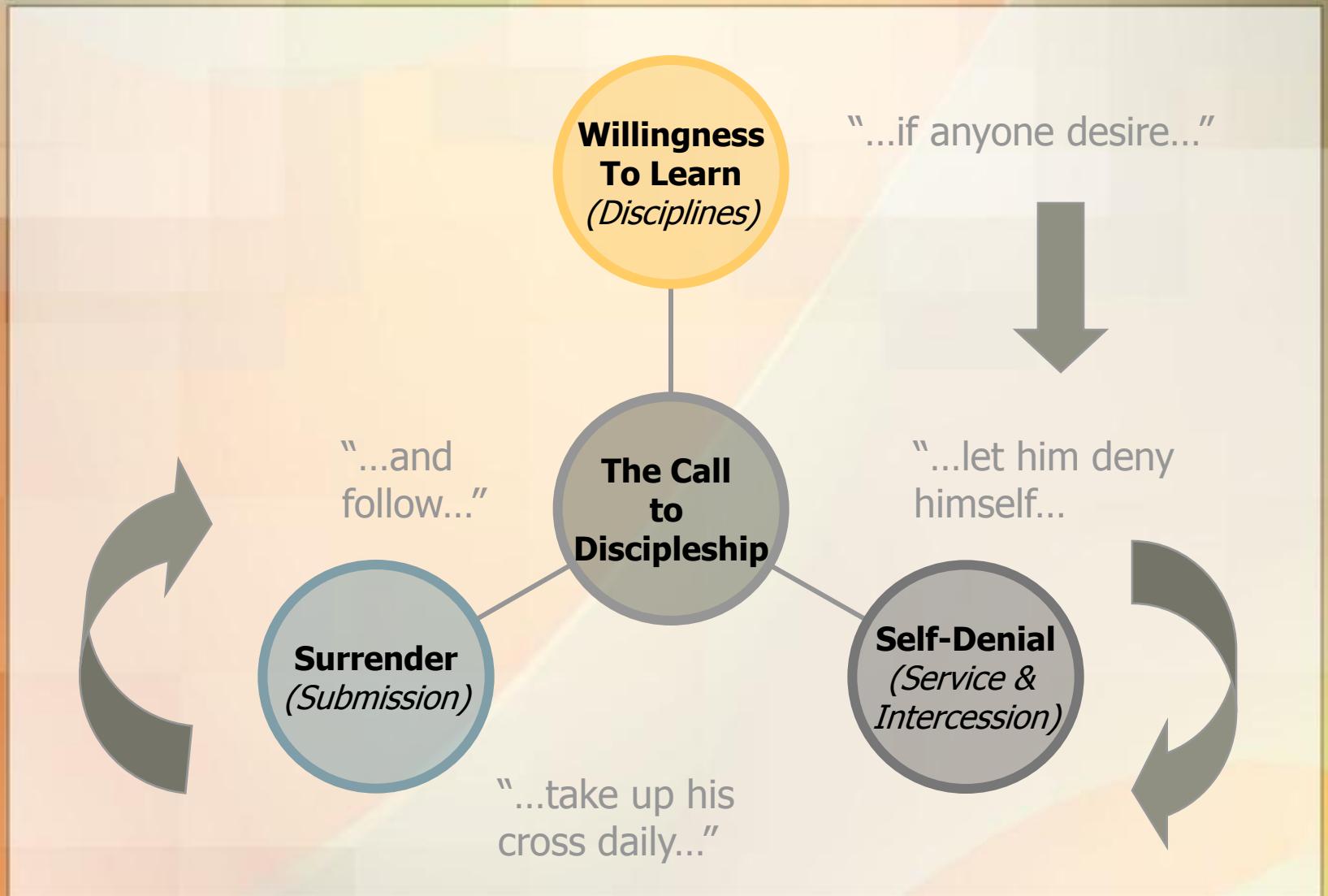
Jesus' Call to Discipleship



Luke 9:23

*"If anyone desire to
come after Me,
let him deny himself,
and take up the cross
daily,
and follow me!"*

The Dynamics of Discipleship



Acts of Learning: The Disciplines

**The Disciplines
are the primary
avenue to learn.**

**We learn by
doing.**

**Discipleship and
Discipline go
together**



The Nature of the Disciplines

The devotional disciplines are channels of God's transforming grace. As we place ourselves in them to seek communion with Christ, His grace flows to us and we are changed. That's why the devotional disciplines must become priority for us if we will be Godly. The great British Baptist preacher of the nineteenth century, Charles Spurgeon, stressed the importance this way:

"I must take care above all that I cultivate communion with Christ, for though that can never be the basis of my peace-mark that-yet it will be the channel of it."

The Danger of the Disciplines

- There is the danger of turning the devotional disciplines into law, externalism (compare 2 Corinthians 3:6). We safeguard ourselves against this pitfall by remembering that the devotional disciplines are gifts that open our lives to God, not for controlling other people and ultimately God.
- There is the pitfall of perceiving the devotional disciplines as virtuous in themselves. The danger here is to think because I pray I must be holy. People in all kinds of religions pray, this is no guarantee that sanctification is actually taken place. It is not the discipline that is of the greatest importance, it is the saving work of God in Jesus Christ that brings real and lasting transformation. The devotional disciplines have no inherent virtue in them, but they open our hearts and minds to experience and grow within God. They open our lives to the continued redemptive work of God in Jesus Christ.
- There is the danger to focus on the devotional disciplines themselves rather than on Jesus. It is important to remember that even a right commandment can become an idol, if it takes the place of God.
- There is the pitfall of elevating one devotional discipline above the rest, to isolate to the exclusion of the others.
- Maybe the greatest danger in studying the devotional disciplines is the potential pitfall of studying the disciplines and not to do them. Remember that hearing and reading are not doing, only doing is doing.

Acts of Self-Denial: Service and Submission



John of the Cross
stated:

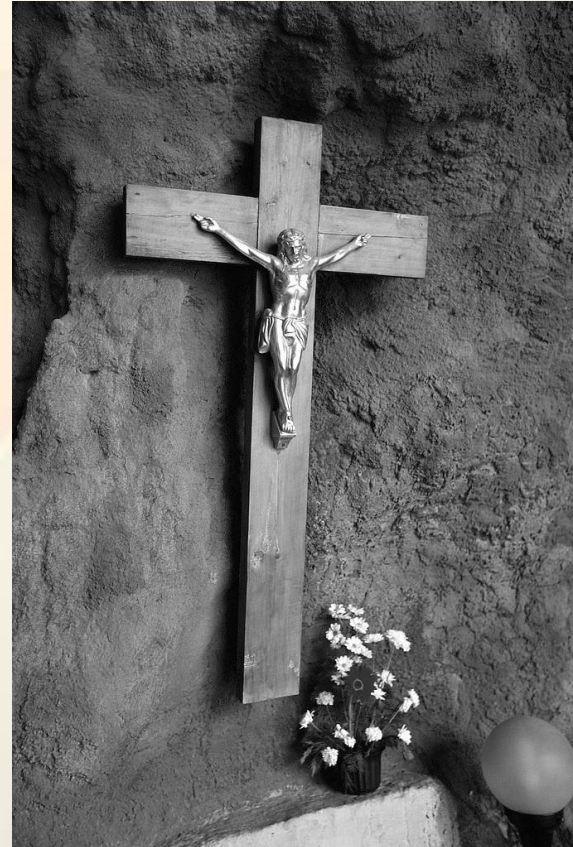
"We have three enemies: the world, the Devil and ourselves - and we are our greatest enemy - the best prayer to pray is to pray - Jesus deliver me from myself."

Two Self-denying Disciplines

Service

&

Intercession



The Call to Service



“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men.”

(Philippians 2:5-7)

The Call to Service

SELF-RIGHTEOUS SERVICE ^[1]

- Self-righteous service comes from human effort. It expends immense amount of energy calculating and scheming how to render service.
- Self-righteous service is impressed with the big deal. It enjoys serving especially if it is titanic, big and impressive.
- Self-righteous service requires external rewards. It needs to know that people see and appreciate the effort. It seeks human applause
- Self-righteous service is highly concerned about results. It eagerly waits to see if the person or group served will respond in any way.
- Self-righteous service picks and chooses whom to serve. Moods and whims affect self-righteous service.

TRUE SERVICE

- True service comes from serving people from the deepest core of our beings, listening to the gentle prompting of the Holy Ghost.
- True service finds it almost impossible to distinguish the small from the big. True service rests content in being hidden.
- True service is free of the need to calculate results
- True service is indiscriminate in its ministry.
- In true service we serve regardless of how we feel.
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^[1] We are indebted here for the insight of Richard Foster in Foster, R J 1978. Celebration of Discipline. London: Hodder and Staughton.

The Call to Service

“People are unreasonable, illogical and self-centered,

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies,

SUCCEED ANYWAY

The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow,

DO GOOD ANYWAY

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable,

BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY

What you spent years building may be destroyed overnight,

BUILD ANYWAY

People really need help, but may attack you if you help them,

HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY

Give the world the best you have and you might get kicked in the teeth

*GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU’VE GOT
ANYWAY”*

(From a sign on the wall of Shishu Bhavan, the children’s home of Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta in India.)



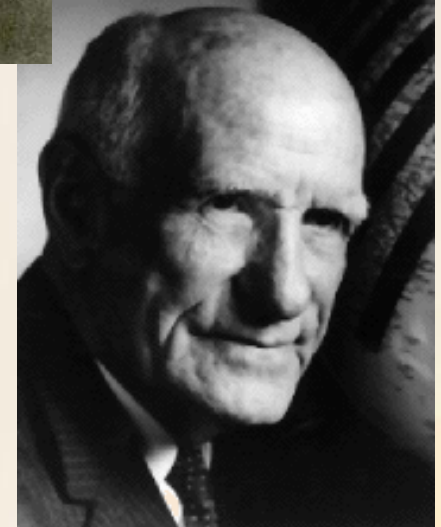
The Call to Intercession



*"Intercessory Prayer
is the bath into
which the
individual and the
fellowship must
enter every day."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer.*

Two Models of Intercessory Prayer

- The Little Way of Teresa of Lisieux
- “Flash Prayers” of Frank Laubach



Service and Intercession



Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

“It is not what you do that is important but how much love you put into the doing that really matters.”

Acts of Surrender: The Call to Submit

Submission is the key to the corporate discipline of community.

The Gathered Community of His love is the place where we submit to the Lordship, love and discipline of Jesus.

When we submit to the authority that God has placed in the Community, we submit to God.

The freedom that the discipline of community brings, lies in the fact that we can become free in not always getting our own way.

The Problem of Self-Seeking

There is nothing more dangerous in Community than the sin of self-seeking (*see James 3:16*).



The Discipline of Submission

- We must submit firstly to God (see *James 4:7*).
- We must submit to the Holy Scriptures (compare *Psalms 119:105-112*).
- We must submit to the authority structures that God has placed in the family (see *Colossians 3:18-22*, *Ephesians 5:22-6:4* and *1 Peter 3:1-9*).
- We must submit to one another (*Ephesians 5:21*)
- We must submit to the authority structures that God has placed in the Church (compare *Ephesians 5:17-21* and *Romans 15:1-7*).
- We must submit to the wisdom that being amongst the poor and down-trodden bring (*Psalms 112:9*)
- We must submit to the authority structures that God has placed in government (see *Romans 13:1-10*).

The Call to Discipleship



"...All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo; I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Matthew 28:18-20

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feedback...**

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Habits of the Heart #8 – Submission and Service

Please give us your [feedback](#).