



WOW: Word Of the Week

Equipping

November 10, 2021

In the Great Commission, we see the last plea, last desire, last commandment of Christ, before he ascended to heaven (Matthew 28:19-20). God's chosen plan is that the disciples (followers of Jesus who are later called Christians, the church) will be his instrument to fulfill the Great Commission, to take the gospel to every nation on the earth. Jesus commanded disciples to make disciples: going, evangelizing, baptizing, and teaching all disciples to live according to all of Christ's teaching. In summary, to obey what Jesus said.

But how can Christ's church carry this out? How can the church become passionate about Christ's Great Commission? Obeying the Great Commission is not automatic. It is a process that believers must embrace. It is an action more easily completed with training and equipping.

About 30 years after Jesus gave the Great Commission, Paul wrote a letter we know as Ephesians and described the work given to leaders as equipping (preparing, equipping, facilitating, capacitating) disciples for the work of ministry.

In effective disciple equipping, we Christians learn how to:

- Have a meaningful, personal relationship with Jesus. Being a Christians is not accurately summarized by simply following the variety of religious rules that are taught in most churches
- Feed ourselves daily through God's Word
- Live a life of victory
- Grow in spiritual maturity on a daily basis
- Share the gospel in a systematic way with others

Across decades of Christian ministry, I have personally seen wonderful spiritual growth in the lives of church members. It's a joy to watch believers rejoice in relationships rather than rules, take the Word of God into their hearts and their homes, live with new hope, vitality and vibrancy, and grow spiritually.

The goal of equipping is reflected in 2 Peter 3:18, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

I pray you will commit to receiving training and becoming equipped. I pray you will help equip others. When God's people learn how to do the work God has given them, in God's way, with God's power, the church will grow in marvelous ways.

Equipping! An important concept! Learn God's will! Learn how to do God's will! Do it!