



July 2020

## IMPORTANCE OF WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Words matter. Definitions matter, especially with regards to words and concepts we find in the Scripture. A particular word may carry different definitions and meanings, depending on one's perspective, and this is true for Discipleship Language.

That means we can use the same language about Discipleship as someone else, and each of us be talking about different things.

- But what does God's Word say?
- How do our definitions line up with His realities?
- Have clear definitions so we can be clear on our progress.

By Discipleship.org

**18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20

## **UNBELIEVER**

- Rebellious, spiritually insensitive, unable to understand Spiritual Truth

Mark 9:19	Unbelieving Generation
2 Corinthians 4:4	Blinded Minds
Ephesians 5:7-82	Darkness
Revelation 21:8	Faithless
James 4:4	Enmity with God
Psalms 14:1	Corrupt

## **BELIEVER**

- Anyone who trusts, has faith in, or holds firm convictions about someone or something.

John 4:39	Believed in Him
Acts 1:15	In the Midst of Believers
1 Timothy 1:5-7	Confident Assertions
1 Thessalonians 1:7	Believers in Macedonia
James 2:19	Even the Demons Believed
John 3:16	Whoever Believes in Him

## **FOLLOWER**

- To pursue or go after; to imitate or strive

Matthew 4:19	Follow Me
Mark 4:10	His Followers
Ruth 1:16	Following You
John 10:27	They Follow Me
Revelations 14:4	Follow the Lamb

## **DISCIPLE**

- Adherent of some Doctrine or Teaching
- Mathetes = Learner; Pupil

Matthew 10:1	Summoned the Twelve
John 8:31	Continue in My Word
John 13:34-35	Know You Are My Disciples
Luke 14:26	Hate His Own Father & Mother
Luke 14:27	Carry His Own Cross
Luke 14:33	Give Up All His Possessions
1Chronicles 25:8	Teach as a Pupil
Isaiah 8:16	Seal the Law in My Disciples

## **DISCIPLE MAKER**

- Person engaged in the manufacturing of some product

Matthew 28:19	Go & Make Disciples
Matthew 13:52	Scribe Trained as a Disciple
John 14:26	Teach You All Things
John 15:8	Bear Much Fruit
John 15:16	Bear Fruit that Remains
John 20:21	I Am Sending You
Acts 14:2	Made Many Disciples
Acts 14:21	Preach the Gospel
Col 1:28	Present Everyone Fully Mature

## IMPORTANCE OF PROGRESSION

In John McArthur's book, "Twelve Ordinary Men", he suggests that there is a "Natural Progression." Therefore, not only is it critical to Disciple Making to speak the same language, but also to think of these five words in a Progression.

- Non-Believer
- Believer
- Follower
- Disciple
- Disciple Maker

Listed below are additional Biblical examples of Progression:

### ROMANS 10:14-15

Written  
Sent  
Preacher  
Heard  
Believed

### 2PETER 1:1-7

Diligence  
Self Control  
Perseverance  
Godliness  
Love

### COLOSSIANS 3:5-8

Put Off; Immorality  
Impurity  
Greed  
Idolatry

# THE PATIENT SHAPING OF A LIFE

By: Dr. John Musselman

Life teaches us that there is a proper order to things. Jesus loved His disciples and patiently opened their eyes and shaped their lives until He had finished the work which the Father had given Him to do. Sequence and process can be clearly seen in the way our Lord trained the Twelve. He recognized and respected the natural order of things and patiently persevered with His disciples throughout their preparation without taking any shortcuts. He did not supernaturally pass over important states as He shaped their lives or intervene in the natural course of human development.

Order and patience are both needed in the discipling process. It takes time for the patient acquisition of virtue. Gradually building a strong foundation in disciple making requires the patient, systematic, and methodical acquiring of wisdom, knowledge, and experience. As syndicated columnist Cal Thomas observed: “You cannot microwave a life.”

For Jesus, the results were astounding. The Gospel accounts reveal the disciples’ gradual growth from the first time they met Jesus until He ascended into heaven and left them to carry on His mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. Eventually, they were transformed by His grace and became the men who turned the known world upside down.

Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889) wrote the following poem in which he expressed our need to have God gradually shape us into the image of His Son:

*In the rough marble beauty lies unseen;  
to make the music and the beauty needs  
The Master’s touch, the sculptor’s chisel keen.  
Great Master touch us with thy skillful hand.*