November 24, 2013
Practical Discipleship
II Timothy 2:2

The Biblical model of discipleship is for an older and wiser believer to take another believer under his or her wing to teach them how to follow Christ regardless of the challenges, obstacles, and oppositions that life brings.

Biblical truth:

It is not enough just to be a branch of the vine. We must abide in Christ and become a branch that bears fruit. It is not enough just to become spiritual adults. We must become spiritual parents that help newborn believers grow from infancy to adulthood.

Three Characteristics of a Disciple:

1. **A true disciple continually seeks a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

   - *Pastor Tim:*
     "I am of the deep conviction that all disciples are believers, but not all believers are true disciples. There is far more to being a true disciple than one's initial acceptance of Christ."

   "As a follower of Jesus Christ, we all need a Paul who is an older and wiser believer to invest into our spiritual growth. We need a Barnabas who encourages us, teaches us, and keeps us accountable. And we all need a Timothy, a younger believer in whose life you can invest."

   --Dr. Howard Hendricks

2. **A true disciple actively seeks a personal relationship with an older and wiser believer.**

   o A disciple isn't someone simply jotting down sermon notes on Sunday morning. He or she is one who intentionally and purposefully follows the life and conduct of someone older and wiser in the faith.

3. **A true disciple is a person who actively seeks a personal relationship with younger believers.**

   o *Pastor Tim:*
     "You cannot disciple by a remote control. You cannot disciple effectively by email, phone calls, Face Book, or Twitter. You cannot simply say, Listen to me.' You have to say 'Follow me.' "

Two Questions:

1. If you live your life and have no successor, are you really considered a success?

2. Do you ask God every morning to fill you with the Holy Spirit?

A guiding principle:

One's availability is always measured by his internal motivation.

Jesus is seeking FAT disciples:

- **F**aithful

- **A**vailable

- **T**eachable