

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Lesson 13



KEY TEXT



**When I planned this, did I do
it lightly?**

**Or do I make my plans in a
worldly manner so that in the
same breath I say, "Yes, yes"
and "No, no"?**

2 Corinthians 1:17

“God has need of workers who, as they labor with him, will comprehend the sacredness of the work, and the conflicts they must meet in order to carry it forward successfully,—workers who will not grow despondent as they see the arduous task before them. The Lord does not try to conceal from his people the stern conflicts they will meet in these last days. Instead, he shows the plan of battle; he points out the hazardous work to be done; he lifts his voice in warning, bidding men count the cost of their discipleship: but he encourages all to take up the weapons of their warfare; for the heavenly host will stand with them in the defense of truth and righteousness.”

EGW (The Youth’s Instructor, October 26, 1899)



- 1. The cost of discipleship:**
 - ❖ Setting clear priorities.
 - ❖ Being willing to suffer for Christ’s sake.
 - ❖ Being disciplined.
- 2. Cost-benefit analysis.**
- 3. The greatest gift in discipleship.**

PRIORITIES

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:26)

Scripture usage makes it clear that this is not “hate” in the usual sense of the word. In the Bible, “to hate,” often should be understood simply as a typical Oriental hyperbole meaning “to love less” (see Deut. 21:15-17). This fact stands forth clearly in the parallel passage where Jesus says, “He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me” (Matt. 10:37). This striking hyperbole is apparently used to make vivid to the follower of Christ the fact that at all times he must make first in his life the kingdom of heaven. (SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, on Luke 14:26)

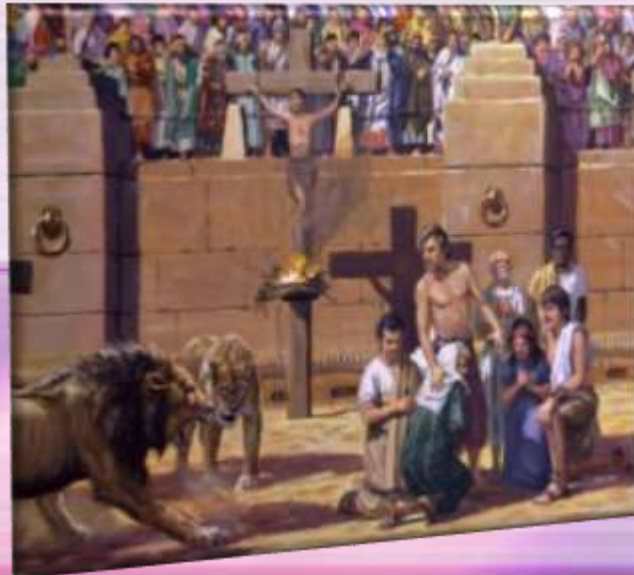


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Being Christ's disciple means loving God unreservedly, first and foremost.

Discipleship exacts the supreme price: undivided loyalty to Christ.



SUFFERING FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

**"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."
(Luke 14:27)**

Discipleship is not a "bed of roses".
Jesus carried His cross. He bore the
shame and the suffering, and He
invites us to follow His example.

He told us we would be persecuted
because of our faith. He even said,
"whoever kills you will think that
he offers God service." (John 16:2)

"In the world you will have
tribulation; but be of good cheer, I
have overcome the world."
(John 16:33)



DISCIPLINE



“And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.” (1 Corinthians 9:25)

“You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” (Hebrews 12:4)

Paul uses the discipline of sportsmen and soldiers as an example. We must be as disciplined as they are to overcome our sinful tendencies.



Christ indeed offers us the power to overcome our character defects. Every appetite, emotion, and intellectual inclination can be under the guidance of His Spirit.

DISCIPLINE

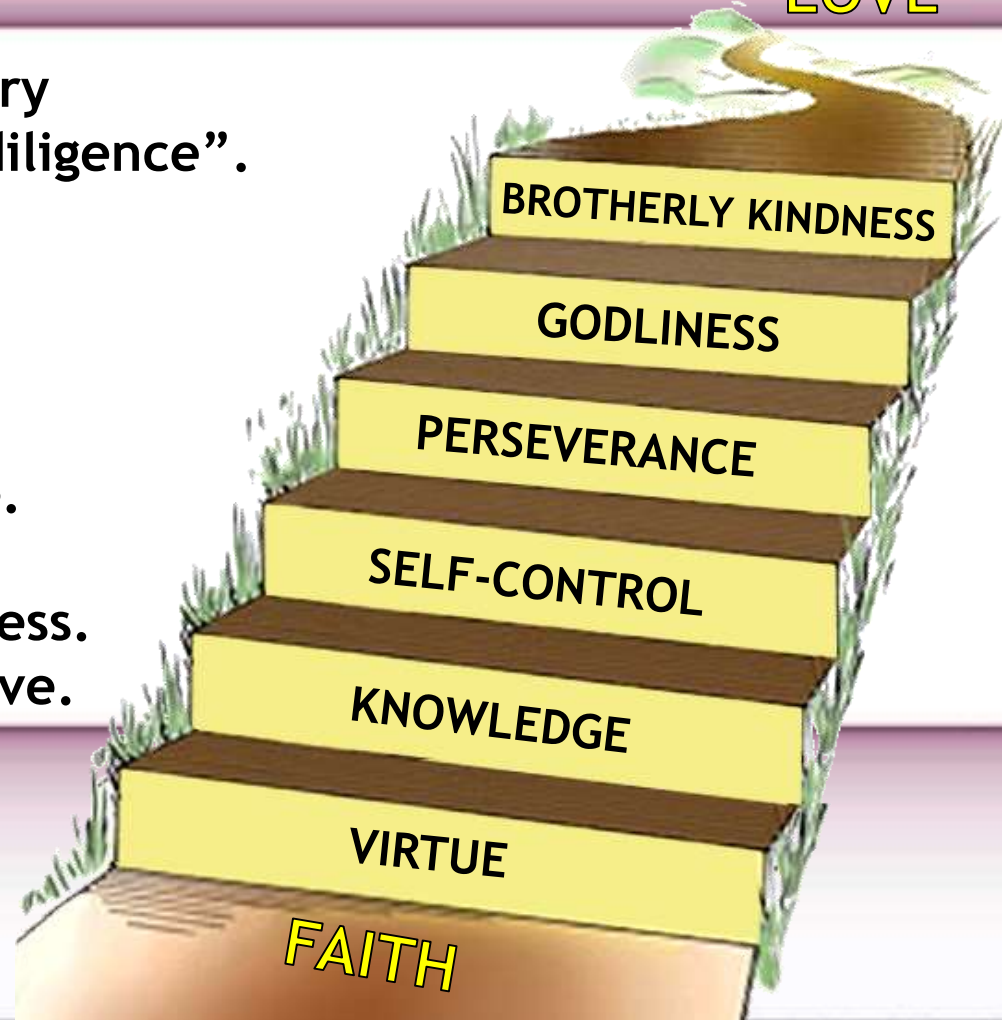
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LOVE

Peter spoke about a “ladder” every Christian must climb, “giving all diligence”. It is found in 2 Peter 1:5-11:

1. Add to your faith virtue.
2. To virtue knowledge.
3. To knowledge self-control.
4. To self-control perseverance.
5. To perseverance godliness.
6. To godliness brotherly kindness.
7. And to brotherly kindness love.



COST-BENEFIT

“But Jesus said to him, ‘No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 9:62)

Jesus invites us to “estimate the cost” (Lk. 14:28 NIV) of discipleship before putting our hand to the plow and beginning our work.

Self-renunciation

“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.”

(Matthew 18:8)

Not expecting worldly rewards

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.” (Luke 6:35)

Humbling oneself

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”

(Philippians 2:3)

Present and future benefits

“So He said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.’” (Luke 18:29-30)

A heavenly dwelling

“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:2-3)

An eternal life with God

“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:3-5)

Cost

Benefit

“Christ calls upon every one to consider. Make an honest reckoning. Put into one scale Jesus, which means eternal treasure, life, truth, heaven, and the joy of Christ in souls redeemed; put into the other every attraction the world can offer. Into one scale put the loss of your own soul, and the souls of those whom you might have been instrumental in saving; into the other, for yourself and for them, a life that measures with the life of God. Weigh for time and for eternity. While you are thus engaged, Christ speaks: ‘What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?’”

THE GREATEST GIFT IN DISCIPLESHIP



“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

(Revelation 21:4)

In Hebrews, Paul talks about the life, faith and sufferings of those who lived as disciples before us (Hebrews 11)



They longed for “a better resurrection” (v. 35). We will also experience that better resurrection if we keep our eyes on Jesus (Hb. 12:2)

There is nothing in this world comparable to what is to come after that glorious resurrection.

“If we could have but one view of the celestial city, we would never wish to dwell on earth again.”

(EGW, The faith I live by, December 24)



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Discipleship

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