



"But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24

DISCIPLESHIP

The Miracle of Multiplication

STUDY GUIDE

FIRST EDITION

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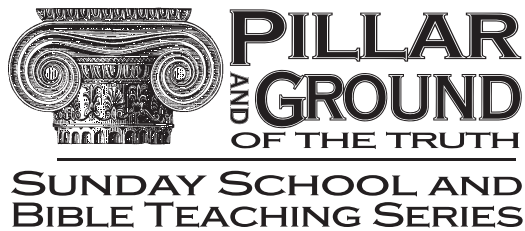
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Preparation Questions

MULTIPLICATION BEGINS WITH GOD

Background Reading

John 12:20-33; Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 2:20;
Luke 9:23-24; Exodus 33:16-19; John 15:1-5; John 5:40-44

MONDAY

According to John 12:20-25, what is necessary for a corn of wheat to bring forth much fruit?

TUESDAY

In John 12:26-33, what is God's reward to those who serve Him and follow His Son?

WEDNESDAY

According to Philippians 2:5-8, what form did Christ take? What great act of obedience did He perform?

THURSDAY

Compare Galatians 2:20 and John 15:1-5. What common truth do these passages teach?

FRIDAY

What does Luke 9:23-24 teach us is required in order to follow Christ?

SATURDAY

According to Exodus 33:16-19, what does God make to pass before Moses when He asks to see God's glory?

MULTIPLICATION BEGINS WITH GOD

1

Scripture Memory

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." John 12:26



In the Christian life, we come to the understanding that God is always previous. In His work, there are no magic formulas or guaranteed equations. Unless He touches His work, there will be no life, no reproduction, and no multiplication.

In John 12:20-33, the Lord Jesus is on His way to the cross to bleed and die for our sins. He teaches His disciples something they need to know in order to continue in His work.

Take special notice of the expression in John 12:26, *"If any man serve me."* God's Word shows us in Philippians 2:5-8 that the Lord Jesus is our example. He became a servant and obeyed. The servant's responsibility is not to serve, but to obey the master.

In John 12:24, the Lord Jesus Christ taught His followers, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."* This is what it means to serve our Saviour.

God is always previous.

Notes

Requirement

There is only one requirement the Lord makes for our service to Him, and it is death to self. Our Lord takes something from nature, a seed, and says in John 12:24, *“But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”*



There is only one requirement the Lord makes for our service to Him, and it is death to self.

This work of multiplication cannot take place until first there is death. There is no telling what God could do with one life if this one requirement is met. We must die to self (Galatians 2:20).

When Jesus Christ went to Calvary, He bled and died for our sins. He bore our sin debt on the cross. He tasted death for every man. Because our debt has been paid in full by the blood of Christ, when we trust Christ

as our Saviour, His record of righteousness is imputed to our account.

Now that we are new creatures in Christ, we must reckon self to be dead on a daily basis. We find this truth again in Luke 9:23-24.

We do not die easily. Every fabric of our self-life resists this death. At every turn in life, this conflict takes place. Will it be my way or God’s way?

Reward

In John 5:40-44, men are seeking a glory for themselves that belongs only to the Lord. This is the self-life.

In John 12:26, we discover the reward of choosing to serve the Lord. The Lord Jesus said, *“If any man serve me, him will my Father*

honour.” This is our reward: to have God’s honor. How does God honor us? We find the open secret in Exodus 33:17-19.

Moses said, “I want to see Your glory.” God said, “All right, I will pass My goodness by you.”

How do you recognize God’s honor? It is the goodness of God in your life.

When we are thinking like Christians ought to think, we would rather have the goodness, blessing, and honor of God than anything else this world has to offer.

Our separation results from the presence of God with us. His presence with us makes us different. It is God who separates us from *“all the people that are upon the face of the earth”* (Exodus 33:16).

Reason

In John 12:27-28, we find the reason for this death to self. It is so that God can be glorified.

Christ teaches in John 15:1-8 that we do not serve Him simply to bear much fruit. The fruit bearing comes as God works by His quickening, life-giving Spirit when we die to self. As the Holy Spirit produces fruit, He also withers the things in our lives that do not bring glory to God.

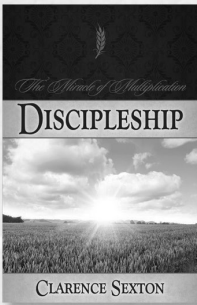
We serve the Lord because of what He has done for us, not in order to get something from Him. The reason that we serve the Lord is for the Lord. He is to be glorified. Without Him we can do nothing.



Will it be my way or God’s way?

The reason we serve the Lord is for the Lord.

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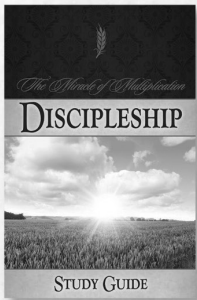
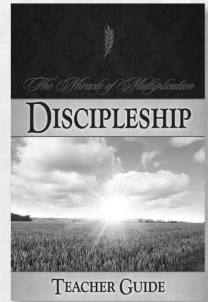
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God's call to every believer is to be a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote to Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2). The open secret in the work of God is discipleship.

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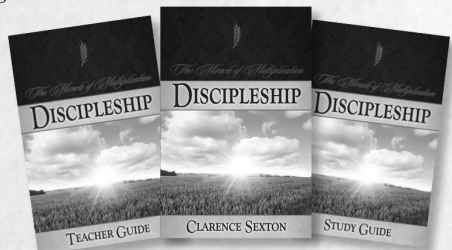
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