

One-on-One Discipleship: Finishing the Great Commission

- A disciple is a **learner**, a **lover**, and a **follower** of Jesus.
- One-on-one in my life
 - Dad
 - Max Barnett
 - Steve Shaull
 - Dave Edwards
 - Ronnie Rogers
 - Dr. Alan Tomlinson
 - Tim Juhnke
 - Now that I am back in Norman I continue to be discipled by Ronnie, Dave, Max.
 - Men of history: George Muller, Jonathan Edwards, John Calvin, Richard Baxter, Charles Spurgeon, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
 - Modern scholars and pastors: John MacArthur, John Piper, Francis Schaeffer, Norman Geisler, Ravi Zacharias, J.I. Packer, Mark Dever
 - At my ordination service in 2005, I had the following quote inserted after the listing of the ordaining council: “If I see farther than those before me, it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants.”
- studies show that less than 1% of evangelical church members are involved in personal follow-up (one-on-one discipleship)¹
- Yet we see the benefits of a one-on-one discipleship context throughout the New Testament
- Paul and Luke, Paul and Timothy, Acquila/Priscilla and Apollos (Acts 18),
- **Definition**: One-on-one discipleship is an intentional friendship, founded in Jesus Christ, for one person to help another person grow in their walk with Jesus through mutual encouragement.
 - an intentional friendship
 - **Mark 3:14** - And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach,
 - **Jn 15:15** - “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
 - founded in Jesus Christ
 - **Eph 2:13-14** - 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
 - for one person to help another person
 - **Pr 27:17** – As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.
 - grow in their walk with Jesus
 - **Col 1:28-29** - 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

¹ Billie Hanks, Jr. *A Call to Joy, Discipled's Guide: Encouraging the Growing Believer* (Salado, Tex.: International Evangelism Association, 1994), 121.

- through mutual encouragement
 - **Heb 10:24-25** - 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
 - **Heb 3:12-13** - 12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
- A disciple is a **learner**, a **lover**, and a **follower** of Jesus.
- A disciplemaker is a **learner**, a **lover**, and a **leader** of disciples.
 1. learner
 - that is the essence of the Greek word *mathetes* (Greek μαθητής) – it means learner; in ancient biblical one who sits at the feet of another and receives spiritual instruction; the word is sometimes translated ‘**apprentice**’
 - a disciplemaker learns two people simultaneously: his God and his man
 - as a **learner of God**, you are a teacher, an instructor, a counselor of God’s Word
 - **Col 1:28-29** - 28 We proclaim Him, **admonishing** every man and **teaching** every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.
 - as a learner of the person you are a **friend**, a confidant, a **listening ear** in dark times, a rejoicer in times of celebration
 - learn the person you disciple; build a relationship; interact and dialogue frequently (FB, Twitter, blog, etc.)
 2. lover
 - the primary direction of this love should be expressed by the word **encourage**
 - **1 Th 2:10-11** - 10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,
 - **1 Th 3:2** - and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,
 - **1 Th 5:11** - Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
 - **1 Th 5:14** - We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
 3. leader
 - servant leader, loving and encouraging leader, accountable leader
 - a disciplemaker must love a person enough to discipline and correct when Scripture calls for it
 - Heb 12:4-16
- Who should I meet with? Dawson Trotman always said to look for those who are: **Faithful**, **A**available, **T**eachable. Look for FAT people!

- **Billy Graham:** “2 Timothy 2:2 is a little like a mathematical formula for spreading the gospel and enlarging the church. Paul taught Timothy; Timothy shared what he knew with faithful men; these faithful men would then teach others also. And so the process goes on and on. If every believer followed this pattern, the church could reach the entire world with the gospel in one generation! Mass crusades in which I believe and to which I have committed my life, will never finish the Great Commission; but a one-by-one ministry will.”²
- **ILL:** In my years in the Army, I learned an important spiritual lesson from the battlefield. One well trained, highly skilled soldier is more effective in combat than a hundred half-hearted brutes. I would rather spend my ministry intensely training 50 Green Berets in the army of God than a thousand privates. One-on-one ministry is the only way that can happen.
- Jesus took 12 men and spent three years in intense training, much of it very personal, and he unleashed them with the power of the Holy Spirit and they changed the world.

² *The Holy Spirit*, Waco: Word, 1978, p. 147; as quoted in Billie Hanks, Jr. *A Call to Joy, Discipled's Guide: Encouraging the Growing Believer* (Salado, Tex.: International Evangelism Association, 1994), 157.