THE DISCIPLINED LIFE

Of everything that involves the Christian Life and his walk, after everything is said, one thing still remains a vital element of the believers life. There are two things that should characterize every Christian, or at least be a part of every believer's walk without which the believer cannot prosper and become fruitful. The two things I refer to are: Consecration and Discipline. Consecration can be seen as the gate which leads to a path, that is there is the initial entering into a life of consecration, it has a beginning which leads to a path of consecration. The path of consecration involves discipline. Discipline begin or should begin at discipleship. You can be a "Christian" today without being a disciple, but you cannot be a disciple without discipline. Most Christians today are not disciples of Jesus Christ, they still follow their own minds and desires, yet they call themselves Christian because they have one time prayed a prayer or have "accepted Christ as their Savior" or they hold to and acknowledge the Christian faith, but they know nothing of what it is to follow Christ or of being a true disciple. Jesus never made Christians, He always made disciples, He always brought men and women under orders, and this involved discipline!

Of these two things today, discipline is much ignored and neglected in life and ministry. The reason why many believers consecration does not blossom, is because of the neglect or ignorance about a disciplined life and walk.

The very word disciple comes from the root of being under discipline. This means that to be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to be under His discipline. Where there is no discipline there is no disciple. Among the majority of Christians, few are under intense discipline and under complete mastery of Christ's very Life!

Christian discipline means placing oneself under orders. The disciple is one who have made a very simple decision – Jesus invites us to follow Him and it is the disciple alone that can accept the invitation.

Now a problem arises as to this matter of discipleship and discipline. Jesus said it would be impossible for one to be a disciple or to come under discipline if they do not meet certain qualifications. If they do not do certain things it will be impossible for them to be
under His discipline or to live a discipline life. For this very reason, consecration should always precede a disciplined life, otherwise discipline would be impossible to become effectual.

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it...” Luk 9:23-24

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple... So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” Luk 14:27, 33

The disciple is invited to:

1. He must leave self behind
2. He must take up his cross DAILY
3. He must follow Christ (come under discipline/orders)

The result:

1. Whoever cares for his own safety is lost
2. If a man let himself be lost for Christ and for the gospel sake, he will find his true self (The Life of Christ)!

This is where a life of discipline begins. Unless the qualifications are met, it will be impossible to live a disciplined life! The disciplined life is the answer to God’s call.

We say that animals are guided by “instinct” which is probably the scientists idea of saying that they have no idea of what guides them. I believe that God guides them. Are they aware of it? Do the robin and the sparrow know that they are cared for? We do not know. We do know there is a profound difference between them and us. We say “free as a bird” but the truth is God meant us to be freer than birds. He made us in His own image which means He gave us things He did not gave them: reason and will and power to choose. God calls me. In a deeper sense than any other “species” of earthbound creature, I am called and so are you. And in a deeper sense I am free, for I can ignore the call. I can turn a deaf ear. I can say that no call came. I can deny that God called or even that God exists. What a gift of amazing grace – that the One who made me allows me to deny His existence! God created me with the power to disobey, for the freedom to obey would be nothing at all without the corresponding freedom to disobey. I can answer no, or I can answer yes. My fulfillment as a human being depends on my answer. Discipline is the answer to Christ’s call! A disciplined life is the surest evidence to see if someone has answer that call.
In the months to come, we will look at what areas in our lives needs to be disciplined in order for us to be true disciples and followers of Christ and so become effective in the work and Call of Christ.

Become involve in the harvest by: going, praying, sending, supporting!