

The background is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes, some clustered and others isolated. In the upper center, there is a faint, circular logo or watermark that appears to contain a cross or a similar religious symbol.

DISCIPLESHIP WITHOUT DISCIPLINE?

1 PETER 2:21-25

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- ²¹ FOR TO THIS YOU WERE CALLED, BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YOU SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS:
- ²² “WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH”;

1 PETER 2:21-25

- ²³ WHO, WHEN HE WAS REVILED, DID NOT REVILE IN RETURN; WHEN HE SUFFERED, HE DID NOT THREATEN, BUT COMMITTED *HIMSELF* TO HIM WHO JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY; ²⁴ WHO HIMSELF BORE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, HAVING DIED TO SINS, MIGHT LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—BY WHOSE STRIPES YOU WERE HEALED. ²⁵ FOR YOU WERE LIKE SHEEP GOING ASTRAY BUT HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE SHEPHERD AND OVERSEER OF YOUR SOULS.

- FROM *THE EIGHTH LETTER* - YOU HAVE HAD A RICH HISTORY OF TEACHING AND MENTORING DISCIPLES, AND YOU HAVE A BIG HEART FOR EVERYONE, NEVER TURNING ANYONE AWAY.
- CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP IS ALWAYS CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT CHRIST. - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRUE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST:

- SELF-DENIAL & CROSS-BEARING
- WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE ALL
- REMAINING STEADFAST
- BEARING MUCH FRUIT

SELF-DENIAL & CROSS-BEARING

- MATTHEW 16:24-25 - ²⁴ THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "IF ANYONE WISHES TO FOLLOW ME [AS MY DISCIPLE], HE MUST DENY HIMSELF [SET ASIDE SELFISH INTERESTS] AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS [EXPRESSING A WILLINGNESS TO ENDURE WHATEVER MAY COME] AND FOLLOW ME [BELIEVING IN ME, CONFORMING TO MY EXAMPLE IN LIVING AND, IF NEED BE, SUFFERING OR PERHAPS DYING BECAUSE OF FAITH IN ME]. ²⁵ FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE [IN THIS WORLD] WILL [EVENTUALLY] LOSE IT [THROUGH DEATH], BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE [IN THIS WORLD] FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT [THAT IS, LIFE WITH ME FOR ALL ETERNITY]. (AMP)

Self-Denial & Cross-bearing

- SALVATION IS FREE, BUT DISCIPLESHIP WILL COST YOU YOUR LIFE - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER
- “THE CROSS WHERE JESUS DIED BECAME ALSO THE CROSS WHERE HIS APOSTLE DIED. THE LOSS, THE REJECTION, THE SHAME, BELONG BOTH TO CHRIST AND TO ALL WHO IN VERY TRUTH ARE HIS. THE CROSS THAT SAVES THEM ALSO SLAYS THEM, AND ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS IS A PSEUDO-FAITH AND NOT TRUE FAITH AT ALL. – A.W. TOZER

Self-Denial & Cross-bearing

- “...THE CROSS OF POPULAR EVANGELICALISM IS NOT THE CROSS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. IT IS, RATHER, A NEW BRIGHT ORNAMENT UPON THE BOSOM OF A SELF-ASSURED AND CARNAL CHRISTIANITY WHOSE HANDS ARE INDEED THE HANDS OF ABEL, BUT WHOSE VOICE IS THE VOICE OF CAIN. THE OLD CROSS SLEW MEN: THE NEW CROSS ENTERTAINS THEM. THE OLD CROSS CONDEMNED; THE NEW CROSS AMUSES. THE OLD CROSS DESTROYED CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH; THE NEW CROSS ENCOURAGES IT. THE OLD CROSS BROUGHT TEARS AND BLOOD; THE NEW CROSS BRINGS LAUGHTER. THE FLESH, SMILING AND CONFIDENT, PREACHES AND SINGS ABOUT THE CROSS; BEFORE THE CROSS IT BOWS AND TOWARD THE CROSS IT POINTS WITH CAREFULLY STAGED HISTRIONICS--BUT UPON THAT CROSS IT WILL NOT DIE, AND THE REPROACH OF THAT CROSS IT STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO BEAR.” – A.W. TOZER

Self-Denial & Cross-bearing

- EITHER JESUS LIVES IN ME, OR I LIVE FOR ME.
- I MUST BEAR THE REPROACH, THE SUFFERING AND THE EDICTS OF THE MAN JESUS CHRIST WHO DIED ON THE CROSS FIRST SO THAT I COULD TRULY LIVE. UNTIL MY HEART IS WILLING TO DO THAT, I CANNOT CALL MYSELF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST.

WILLINGNESS TO LEAVE ALL

- LUKE 14:25-27 - ²⁵ NOW GREAT MULTITUDES WENT WITH HIM. AND HE TURNED AND SAID TO THEM, ²⁶ “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. ²⁷ AND WHOEVER DOES NOT BEAR HIS CROSS AND COME AFTER ME CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.
- LUKE 14:33 - ³³ SO LIKEWISE, WHOEVER OF YOU DOES NOT FORSAKE ALL THAT HE HAS CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.

Willingness to Leave All

- “GOD WANTS THE WHOLE PERSON, AND HE WILL NOT REST TILL HE GETS US IN ENTIRETY. NO PART OF THE MAN WILL DO” – A.W. TOZER
- THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND WITH JESUS, THE MORE YOU SEE HOW LITTLE HE REALLY HAS OF YOU.

Willingness to Leave All

- PHILIPPIANS 3:8 - ⁸ YET INDEED I ALSO COUNT ALL THINGS LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS MY LORD, FOR WHOM I HAVE SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS, AND COUNT THEM AS RUBBISH, THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST.
- THE THINGS WE LOSE FOR CHRIST ARE THE THINGS THAT WERE NEVER OF ETERNAL VALUE ANYWAY.

REMAIN STEADFAST

- JOHN 8:31-32 - ³¹ THEN JESUS SAID TO THOSE JEWS WHO BELIEVED HIM, “IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD, YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES INDEED. ³² AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.”

Remain Steadfast

- YOU AND I CANNOT JUST HEAR, WE MUST DO.
- IT IS STEADFAST OBEDIENCE THAT BRINGS FREEDOM IN CHRIST JESUS.

BEAR MUCH FRUIT

- JOHN 15:5-8 - ⁵ “I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. ⁶ IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME, HE IS CAST OUT AS A BRANCH AND IS WITHERED; AND THEY GATHER THEM AND THROW *THEM* INTO THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE BURNED. ⁷ IF YOU ABIDE IN ME, AND MY WORDS ABIDE IN YOU, YOU WILL ASK WHAT YOU DESIRE, AND IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU. ⁸ BY THIS MY FATHER IS GLORIFIED, THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT; SO, YOU WILL BE MY DISCIPLES.

Bear Much Fruit

- DISCIPLESHIP AND FRUITFULNESS GO HAND IN HAND; YOU CANNOT HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.
- WE DO NOT WISH TO ENTER HEAVEN UNTIL OUR WORK IS DONE, FOR IT WOULD MAKE US UNEASY IF THERE WERE ONE SINGLE SOUL LEFT TO BE SAVED BY OUR MEANS. – CHARLES SPURGEON