#### HOW TO BE A FAITH WALKER "Becoming A True Disciple" – Part 3 of 3 January 26, 2025

# SAY YES TO GOD!

"Then Jesus called his disciples and the crowds to come over and listen. 'If any of you wants to be my follower,' he told them, 'you must <u>put aside your selfish ambition</u>, <u>shoulder</u> <u>your cross</u>, and <u>follow me</u>." **Mark 8:34 (NLT '96)** 

"Jesus called the crowd together with his disciples, and said to them, 'If anyone wishes to follow me (as my disciple), he must <u>deny himself</u> (set aside selfish interests), and <u>take up his cross</u> (expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come) and <u>follow Me</u> (believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me)." **Mark 8:34 (Amp)** 

# HOW TO LEAVE THE CROWD AND BECOME A DISCIPLE:

- 1. PUT ASIDE \_\_\_\_\_ AMBITION
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# 2. TAKE UP THE \_\_\_\_\_

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ <u>died for us</u>."

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ HIM

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God..." Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you <u>give up your life for my sake</u> and <u>for the sake of the Good News</u>, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Mark 8:36-37 (NLT)

# LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE!

"<u>LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE</u>, just as <u>CHRIST LOVED US</u> and GAVE himself up for us as a fragrant OFFERING and SACRIFICE to God." **Ephesians 5:2 (NIV '84)** "<u>EVERYTHING YOU DO</u> must be <u>DONE WITH LOVE</u>!" **1 Corinthians 16:14 (NLT '96)** "<u>LOVE is more important THAN ANYTHING ELSE</u>. It is what <u>ties everything completely</u> <u>together</u>." **Colossians 3:14 (CEV)** "<u>GO AFTER</u> A LIFE OF LOVE as if your life depended on it -- because it does!"

1 Corinthians 14:1 (MSG)

#### LEARNING TO LOVE BETTER SHOULD BE MY FIRST PRIORITY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

# IF I NEVER LEARN HOW TO REALLY LOVE ...

(1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8, 13)

# 1. NOTHING I WILL MATTER!

"I may be able to SPEAK the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell!"

1 Corinthians 13:1 (GN)

# 2. NOTHING I \_\_\_\_\_ WILL MATTER!

"I may have the gift of prophecy. I may understand all the secret things of God and have ALL KNOWLEDGE...but if I don't have love, then I am nothing!"

1 Corinthians 13:2a (NCV)

### 3. NOTHING I WILL MATTER!

"I may have faith so great I can move mountains! But even with all these things, if I do not have love, then I am nothing!" 1 Corinthians 13:2b (NCV)

4. NOTHING I \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ WILL MATTER!

"If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing!"

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NLT)

"The ONLY thing that counts is faith expressing itself through LOVE!"

Galatians 5:6b (NIV)

# HOW CAN I LEARN TO LOVE BETTER?

### 1. KEEP REMINDING MYSELF HOW MUCH GOD ME!

"Love comes from God... And God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is REAL love! ... And since God loved us THAT MUCH, we surely ought to love each other."

1 John 4:7, 9-11 (NLT)

2. SPEND MORE TIME WITH GOD AND HIS "As we live in God, our love grows more perfect." 1 John 4:17 (NLT)

"I pray that LOVE may be the ground into which you sink your roots and on which you have your foundation." Ephesians 3:17 (GW)

# 3. PRACTICE CHOOSING TO IN LOVING WAYS

"Let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love!" 1 John 3:18a (MSG)