

DISCIPLESHIP

(Building The Men That Transform Nations)

By

Apostle Joshua Selman

Transcribed And Edited

By

Livingsermons.com

Copyright

© 2025 by *Apostle Joshua Selman*

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in reviews, articles, or non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

Published by: Livingsermons.com

A Spirit-led publishing platform for transcribed sermons and Christian eBooks.

This book is distributed freely for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not to be sold or exchanged for monetary value.

For permissions, enquiries, or additional resources, please visit:

www.livingsermons.com

Dedication

*To the glory of the **Almighty God**,
the Giver of life, wisdom, and revelation,
without whom there is no message, no grace, and no ministry.
All praise, honour, and thanksgiving belong to Him forever.*

*And with heartfelt honour,
This book is dedicated to **Apostle Joshua Selman**,
a faithful servant of Christ,
whose yielded life, teaching, and obedience
continue to bless the Body of Christ
and advance the Kingdom of God in our generation.*

Table of Contents

Dedication

Opening Prayers and Worship

 Prayer for Encounter

 Dedication of the Service

 Charge to the Church

 Guarding Your Passion

Announcements: Global Convention Preparation

 Transition to the Word

Discipleship: Building the Men that Transform Nations

 The Threefold Mandate of the Great Commission

 A Call to Parents and Leaders

 What is Discipleship?

 The Power of Human Capital

 A Father's Responsibility

 A Journey of Growth

 Letters to Children, Young Men, and Fathers

 The Absence of Discipleship

 The Mandate to Disciple Nations

 Learn How to Die for Jesus

 The Altar Call

Final Instructions and Benediction

 About the Preacher

 About Living Sermons

Join the Livingsermons.com Team

Introduction

Discipleship is more than just attending church; it is the process of becoming like Jesus and carrying His life into every sphere of influence. In this book, *Discipleship (Building the Men that Transform Nations)*, Apostle Joshua Selman opens our eyes to the true cost and reward of following Christ.

This message is both urgent and practical. It challenges believers to grow beyond comfort, to embrace transformation, and to live as true reflections of Christ in a world that desperately needs Him. The words in these pages will stretch you, convict you, and stir you to deeper commitment—because only transformed men and women can transform nations.

As you read, let the Spirit of God guide you. Don't just skim through—pause, pray, and allow these truths to shape your destiny. This is more than a book; it is a call to rise as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Service

Wisdom Epsi

Chief Editor – *Living Sermons*

Main Message

DISCIPLESHIP

(Building The Men That Transform Nations)

by

Apostle Joshua Selman

Opening Prayers and Worship

You lift your hands to heaven. Bless His name. Give Him thanks for tonight.

With hands lifted high above your head, let's give Him praise. Thank Him because He is a good God. For Your faithfulness, Lord, we thank You. For the abundance of Your mercies, we thank You.

He is a gracious God. I am thanking the Lord tonight for His compassion. We thank You for wisdom, for favour, for Your hand, for Your help. Oh, we give thanks to the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

We give You thanks, O God, and we give You praise.

One minute—give Him thanks. Lavish thanks coming from a grateful heart. Lavish thanks coming from a thoughtful heart.

In Jesus' mighty name we pray.

Dedication of the Service

Father, we bless Your name for tonight. You have gathered us again to lift us, to grow us, to bless us, to anoint us, to enlighten us, to give us understanding.

We yield ourselves, O God, as desperate people in need of Your touch; desperate people in need of Your wisdom. We desire Your presence. We desire the wisdom that comes from that presence, the power that emanates from that presence.

Lord, we thank You tonight because we will change. We thank You because we will see You clearer. We will hear You like never before. And as we are focused on You, we are transformed.

Let the sick be healed. Let the oppressed be delivered. Let the hopeless find hope. And may we be mightily imparted.

And to Jesus be all the glory.

For it is in Jesus' matchless name we have prayed.

Amen!

Guarding Your Passion

When Satan wants to destroy you, he does not start by attacking you. He attacks your passion—your passion for His presence. And it can even be with legitimate reasons: your work, the busyness of the day. Before you know it, you get busy, preoccupied with good things—good things that steal away your time with Him. Good things that steal away your passion.

You must guard His presence in your life jealously. You must guard your passion for His Word, your passion for prayer, your passion for wisdom.

Beware of Ritual Christianity

Secondly, never allow coming to church to become a ritual in your life.

You can get into the motions of coming to church every Sunday, every Tuesday, every Wednesday, every other day for church service or any conference—and literally lose that fire. The desire is no longer there. You are just fulfilling the ritual of answering a psychological register: “I came to the house of the Lord today so that no one will ask me, ‘Where have you been?’”

And you’ll be surprised that you can be here from start to finish and never receive anything.

Transition to the Word

Father, we thank You for this opportunity. We pray, as always, that You will be glorified and lifted.

In Jesus' matchless name we pray, amen and amen.

Now, let's go to the business of tonight.

I am excited about the things you will be learning because contained within this teaching are precious keys that sustain the power to transform lives, territories, churches, and even nations.

I consider all my teachings to be interesting and edifying. But sometimes I get very personal and emotional with them, because of the weight of truth contained in them. Tonight is one of such teachings. Whatever your spiritual level, you will find it deeply edifying.

And this is one of those teachings where you don't even have to be a Christian to be blessed by it. Some teachings require a certain foundation in the Word of God for them to profit you. But this one can bless anyone: politicians, presidents, pastors, businessmen, Christians, Muslims, free-thinkers, traditionalists—you are all welcome.

Participate in the teaching tonight, and I pray that it will bless your hearts in Jesus' name.

Discipleship: Building the Men that Transform Nations

I have studied the concept of nation building. I have studied the concept of transformation—both personal and territorial. I have studied the concept of growth, maturity, and stature. This is something I have studied for myself, but it has also been my intent to gain mastery in understanding how people change.

I am a systems person. I like to learn how systems work. I am pro-productivity. I like results. I like things that work. *Hallelujah.*

That passion has propelled me to study the Word of God, and also to study leadership, systems, governments, and the technicalities behind results. From these studies, I have come up with many interesting findings that I believe will profit our global family and the body of Christ.

My emphasis tonight is to deliver to us—and to the many who are following—the key to transforming nations. I want to show you how individuals, how families, how nations become transformed through the power of God's Word.

Tonight, our emphasis is going to be on **how to build the men that transform nations.**

The topic for tonight's teaching is:

Discipleship: Building the Men that Transform Nations

We are going to consider and learn how to build the men that build societies; how to build the men that build businesses; how to build the men that establish God's programme through churches; how to build the men that build nations.

Scripture Reading

Acts 11:19–26 (KJV)

19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

May the Lord bless the reading of His Word in the name of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18–20 (KJV)

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Can we shout aloud *Amen*?

Amen.

The Threefold Mandate of the Great Commission

As a background and reminder, the Great Commission—as I have taught you in this house—has three components or three dimensions to it.

Number one is **world evangelisation**—what you call soul-winning.

The Great Commission, the mandate that Jesus gave us to the nations, is threefold. Now, the phrase “Great Commission” is not written in the Bible. It is simply a term coined to capture the mandate the believer has been given to the nations.

The Great Commission has three dimensions:

1. **Our ministry to unbelievers** – This is world evangelisation, or soul-winning.
2. **Our ministry to the Church** – This is the equipping and maturing of the saints.
3. **Our ministry to society** – This is impacting and transforming territories using the value system of the Kingdom.

1. Our Ministry to the World

This involves soul-winning: bringing many into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

2. Our Ministry to the Church

This is the equipping and maturing of believers—transitioning them from infants, “baby Christians,” through the protocols of growth until they become witnesses.

3. Our Ministry to Society

This is territorial transformation: impacting and transforming society using Kingdom values. Here we speak of charity, productivity, technological advancement, economic emancipation, raising moral standards in society, and so forth.

The Unique Place of Discipleship

Now, all three components are very important.

- World evangelisation—important.
- The maturity of the saints by teaching them doctrine and principles of the Kingdom—important.
- Transforming society by Kingdom values—important.

But the **second component**—the maturity of the saints, or discipleship—is uniquely important.

Why? Because it translates into the health of both the first and third components. In other words, to the degree that the saints mature and attain sonship, it will determine:

- the efficiency of soul-winning (because it is matured saints who will do the work of the evangelist), and
- the efficiency of transforming society (because it is matured saints who will carry Kingdom values into systems).

The Unique Importance of Discipleship

So it makes the concept of discipleship and the maturity of the saints uniquely important.

I wrote here, and I will read: *All three components of the Great Commission, as aforementioned, are important. But the second component, which is discipleship or the maturity of the saints, is uniquely important because it is the key to being effective in every other aspect of the Great Commission.*

Failure in equipping and training believers will result in a decline in soul-winning. Failure in equipping and training believers will result in a decline in the availability of change agents that transform society.

Have you understood me so far?

So I am saying again: *All the three components of the Great Commission are important, but the subject of discipleship—attaining maturity and sonship—is uniquely important. Because to the degree to which the training of believers happens, it will determine the efficiency of soul-winning and the efficiency of territorial transformation.*

Hallelujah.

The Cure to Societal Decay

Let me tell you this: the cure to many of the evils and backwardness in society, alongside the poor quality of believers, is the lack of discipleship.

When you look at a society like Abuja, Nigeria, Africa, and even the globe, there is an explanation as to the decadence—whether economically, morally, or otherwise.

Governments across the globe are meeting like never before, trying to decide what to do with men. The more men across the globe, the more trouble

everywhere. Are you seeing it? Everybody is tired. People are tired in church. Teachers are tired because of the kinds of students they are seeing.

Look at the testimony of the young boy in college who is already being introduced to adult content. His mind is polluted and corrupted. Imagine if that boy becomes the chairman of your local government. Imagine if he becomes a senator. Imagine if he is the one responsible for recruiting young men. You see the trouble that begins to spread into society?

How National Problems Begin

I have told you here that every national problem is first a regional problem that was not dealt with.

- Nigeria, listen to me.
- Africa, listen to me.

Every regional problem is a community problem that was not dealt with.

Every community problem is a family problem that was not dealt with.

A thief never becomes a national thief from the first day. He begins by stealing meat at home. He steals biscuits, erasers, little things in school, and goes free. Every time you succeed in evil, you are propelled to continue, until he becomes a global terrorist, until he becomes a nuisance to people.

Is someone learning now?

So I am saying that the evils that have plagued our world today, even pastors like never before, are almost tired of people.

You can find a church with 200 members and the pastor cannot sleep because of the troubles:

- one beating his wife,

- another beating her husband,
- children rebelling against parents,
- parents misbehaving,
- some stealing government money, ending in prison, and now they say, “Pastor, come and comfort your member.”

The Breakdown of Order

If we do not solve this problem, eventually:

- governments will break down,
- preachers will break down,
- law and order will break down.

Even in the legal system—you ask legal practitioners—it is milder in Africa. Abroad, everything goes to the court. You smile wrongly at someone, they say, “Why did you smile at me this way?” and you are headed to court. All kinds of problems.

Corruption and Its Ripple Effects

How about someone who siphons the resources that should build a school?

The resources meant to build a school for the next generation of children, one man steals without conscience—because his brother was in charge of the contract. That person may even be a tongue-talking Christian, a pastor himself, and he collects the money, even pays tithe from it.

Are you seeing the problem now?

Then, children who should have gone to school now roam about with active, restless minds. Terrorist organisations come and recruit them cheaply, radicalising them into becoming a nuisance to society.

So it is not enough to just pray and fast. There must be intelligence in analysing the subject of national transformation and human capital development.

A Call to Parents and Leaders

Listen carefully: discipleship is the cure.

I want to teach something that will be beneficial to us. Every parent, every leader, please lend me your attention.

If you are learning so far, say *Amen*.

Amen.

Hallelujah.

The State of the Church

How many of you know there are many corrupt people who are directly members of churches? Do you agree with me?

There are many marriages in crisis. Most of them—please don't feel bad, I am not trying to pierce into your personal affairs, I am dealing with a broad subject—most of them are in church.

You find a man who prays in tongues, yet he beats his wife. Then he locks himself up, praying in tongues, while preparing to go for Bible study. Women also beat men—yes, it is on record.

This work of ministry is like the work of a doctor—I have seen surprises. Some women beat the living daylight out of their husbands. *May God forbid it in your case, in Jesus' name.*

Hallelujah.

The Cry of Nations

Policies after policies are being written. You go to the Senate, you go to the House, you find people deliberating on how to solve the Nigerian problem, the African problem.

The problem of crime, the problem of poverty, the problem of poor education, the problem of ill-prepared preachers destroying people's lives in the name of ministry—it is endless.

But I can tell you, there is a solution.

Say with me: *There is a solution.*

There is a solution.

Say: *There is a way out.*

There is a way out.

What is Discipleship?

Now very quickly—what is discipleship?

Many of us have heard the word *discipleship*, but unfortunately, the model you saw was so irritating that you ran away and began to hate both the process and the word itself. Let me redefine it for you.

We already read Matthew 28:19–20, so I will not go back there. Instead, I will give you a series of definitions. Please listen carefully—first to learn, then to write.

Definition One

Discipleship is the ongoing process of progressively becoming like Christ in thought, in word, and in action through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

It is not a one-off experience. It is not one week. It is not one year. It is the ongoing process of progressively becoming like Christ in your thoughts, your words, and your actions, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

When you submit to this ongoing process, we call that discipleship.

Definition Two

Discipleship is a lifelong journey of spiritual growth, transformation, and conformity to the character of Christ in experience.

It is a journey, not an event. It spans your lifetime—constantly shaping you into the image of Christ.

Definition Three

Discipleship is the intentional and structured mentoring of believers so that they progressively attain spiritual maturity and stature in experience.

Take note of two words: *intentional* and *structured*. This means discipleship is not left to chance. It requires guidance, order, and deliberate mentoring until believers grow into maturity.

Definition Four

Discipleship is building the culture of the Kingdom in believers.

Titus 3:1–8 explains this beautifully:

- *“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work; to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.”*

Ephesians 5:1–2 adds:

- *“Be imitators of God, as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”*

So discipleship is not just teaching doctrine, it is building a culture—the lifestyle of the Kingdom—in the lives of believers.

Broader Definition

On a broader scale, **discipleship also involves strategically transforming those who will transform territories and nations.**

It means raising men and women who will be nation-builders, societal reformers, and Kingdom ambassadors in every sphere.

In simple terms: *discipleship is building men.*

From a national standpoint, the technical word for this is **human capital development**.

To the degree that the human capital of any church, business, territory, or nation is developed, that is the degree to which there will be sufficient manpower to drive progress.

The real strength of the finest organisations across the globe is not just their technology, not merely their innovations—it is their people. Well-trained, well-built people.

The Power of Human Capital

What you call the apps, the IT tech giants, the great conglomerates, and their products—they did not manufacture themselves out of thin air. They came as the brainchild of faithful people.

A nation, a church, a family, or a territory that ignores its human capital will remain beggarly forever. And if the Body of Christ ignores the vast army of men and women—potential soldiers of the Cross—who, if trained and structurally mentored, can be tools for soul-winning and national transformation, then we will continue to lose ground.

If you understand me so far, say Amen. *Amen!*

The Church: Heaven's Most Reliable Institution

Listen carefully: **the Church is the most reliable institution on earth with the divinely accredited strategy for reforming and transforming men.**

Let me repeat that. The Church is not the only institution, but it is the most reliable institution on earth, heaven-certified, with the mandate to reform and transform men.

Yes, there are other institutions:

- the legal system,
- the educational system,
- rehabilitation centres,
- therapy clinics,
- schools and universities,
- law enforcement agencies.

They all play their roles in helping people. But hear me—**where the courts fail, the Church has a solution. Where the police and military fail, the Church has a solution. Where therapy and medicine fail, the Church has a solution.**

This is powerful. The Church of Jesus Christ is not ordinary. It is not just about falling under the power or listening to nice sermons. We are Heaven's solution for a dying world.

It is only in the Church you will hear of the dead being raised. It is only in the Church you will hear of cancers disappearing, addictions broken overnight, drunkards transformed into lovers of God without withdrawal symptoms.

It is in the Church you read of Saul becoming Paul. It is in the Bible you see the widow with a jar of oil transformed from indebtedness to prosperity. The Church is not ordinary—it is Heaven's accredited institution for the transformation of men.

Why Education Alone Cannot Transform

Now, the secular world believes—and they are right according to their convictions—that educating the human brain is the noblest thing you can do to help someone live a meaningful life. From their perspective, this is correct. Ignorance is indeed a cancer that cripples creativity, innovation, and potential.

But listen carefully: **educating the human mind alone cannot produce a reformed and transformed person.**

I do not downplay education—formally or informally. We must invest in knowledge. But education by itself may only produce intelligent men and women in reasoning, not transformed men in character.

That is why we have professors in prison. Lawyers in prison. Politicians in prison. With all due respect, some of the most educated minds are behind bars.

Even organised terrorism requires high-level intelligence. No dull person can coordinate transcontinental terrorism. It requires an understanding of diplomacy, administration, leadership, and the rules of engagement. It is not for the ignorant.

So corruption, even at an institutional level, demands intelligence. The problem is not ignorance—it is the absence of transformation.

Education Hinged on the Word of God

Therefore, the only way education can truly reform and transform is if its curriculum is built upon the Word of God.

That is why I pray, without bias or sentiment, that God will raise people who will design academic curricula hinged on the Word of God—systems that do not produce fanatics, but produce reformed and transformed men and women who can transform society.

History has shown this: people who had the privilege of attending real mission schools—Catholic, Anglican, evangelical, or other orthodox Christian institutions—carry a lasting seed. Even if they wander like the prodigal son, the Word planted in them calls them back.

Such schools shaped conscience, not just intellect. They imparted values, not just information.

Even today, there are universities and organisations across the globe whose core values and operational systems, though they may not quote chapter and verse, are rooted in Biblical principles. These principles have sustained their excellence for generations.

The Role of Discipleship in Society

Dear parents, it is wonderful to educate your children, but it is equally important to **verify what they are learning**. Especially in these days, subtle and poisonous indoctrinations creep in through cartoons, online content, and even schools.

There are children—under ten years old—whose destruction began from the model their teachers gave them. Imagine with all due respect: a teacher standing in front of a classroom smoking. Those children, with their youthful curiosity, begin to imitate, and before long, they start experimenting. That is how destinies are ruined.

Let me tell you why you must care: if your neighbour's child becomes bad, it will hurt your child who is good. A good child who is taught peace may one day be attacked by a violent child raised on rebellion. This is why **discipleship is not just personal—it is territorial**.

Don't say tonight's message does not concern you. Eventually, it will reach your doorstep. You can be righteous like Lot, yet still lose your wife and daughters simply because you lived in a depraved territory.

It is not enough to be saved as an individual. You must care about **territorial transformation**.

The Absence of Discipleship

Most of the problems in homes, marriages, politics, workplaces, and even pulpits are tied to discipleship—or the absence of it.

When a young man, not disciplined, not trained, not in love with the Lord, suddenly believes ministry is a shortcut to wealth, he sets himself up for disaster. If he couldn't get a job in the oil company, civil service, or military,

someone may tell him, “Start a church, that’s how to make money.” And because he can sing or preach, he ventures into ministry.

But hear me—if his orientation is wrong, then the pulpit becomes nothing more than a marketplace. And sadly, his errors affect everyone, both genuine and fake ministers alike.

It is the same way some passports around the world are viewed. Carry one, and no matter how good you are, you are already a suspect. The system has generalised everyone based on the failures of a few.

Why We Must Build Transformed People

A reformed and transformed people will not only produce healthy Kingdom witnesses but also a healthy society.

Take for instance a man who has been discipled under a sound pastor. When he marries, most likely he will not hurt his wife. Why? Because the Word will judge him: *“If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”* (1 Timothy 5:8).

But a man barely saved and never discipled? When his wife annoys him, what happens? When his children want to serve God, he resists them. He may keep them home from church, leaving them idle. And in that idleness, the devil whispers: *“Try pornography. Try fraud. Try cultism.”*

Many parents have no idea what their children have become behind closed doors. On the surface, they greet respectfully, dress well, and appear nice. Yet, some are already cultists. Some are already immersed in things that will destroy them.

If the Church keeps quiet, we will produce a disaster.

- A man without the fear of God will become a governor without the fear of God.
- A man without the fear of God will become a pastor without the fear of God.
- A man without the fear of God will become a senator without the fear of God.

What you refuse to disciple today will govern you tomorrow.

Discipleship Produces Responsible Men

Believers, are we learning?

Look at a man of God who has not been taught that ministry is about feeding God's sheep, not using them as ladders for fame or wealth. Such a man will not have time to disciple people. He will manipulate them, not nurture them.

But when a man of God has been discipled, he sees ministry as a sacred stewardship. Even when weary, the burden of the Word drives him. "*Feed my lambs... feed my sheep*" (John 21:15–17).

Conscience is not random. It does not fall from the sky. Conscience is engineered by a standard—and that standard is the Word of God.

Every problem has a root. Every man is guided by something. If a man is not guided by God's Word, he will eventually become a disaster—to himself, to his family, and to society.

A Father's Responsibility

Think about it: a man who does not pay his child's school fees, yet is a deacon or pastor. With love I say this—many children we support from primary to university education have living fathers who never asked, “*Who raised my child?*”

But when it is time to collect dowry, those same fathers suddenly appear, insisting on honour. Hear me: **fatherhood is not just biological—it is spiritual responsibility.** The one who trained, disciplined, and revealed God to the child is the true father.

The Root of Misbehaviour

Most of the problems in our homes and society come from lack of discipleship. There are painful, touchy matters I may not go into now, but they are directly connected to **misbehaviour.**

Whenever you see widespread dishonour and bad conduct in homes, in marriages, even on the pulpit, it points to ill-trained people. They have not learned the law of honour.

Have you seen young men like that? They walk up to elders in serious discussions and, with no sense of respect, tap their shoulders, saying, “*I want to talk to you.*” You can immediately tell this boy has not been cultured. Many times, their parents may be wealthy, but wealth cannot replace training.

Charity does not begin at home—it begins when you open the Word of God and start building your life upon it.

Is someone learning?

Discipleship: The Hope of the Church and Society

Most of the problems in homes, the workplace, politics, marriages, and even on the pulpit can be corrected. This is a **word of hope**. No matter what you see happening across society or in the church, there is a way out. That way is the **power of discipleship**.

Listen carefully: discipleship can benefit anyone, whether saved or unsaved.

But Bible discipleship is **most profitable only to believers**—those who have received salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, “*Disciple nations,*” not just the Church (Matthew 28:19). That means there is an element of discipleship that can benefit anyone—teaching people moral values, teaching people honour. Even if they lack the empowerment to fully live it out, they can at least be aware of it.

So yes, discipleship can benefit anyone, but Bible discipleship is only truly fruitful to those who have received salvation.

The Order of Needs

Remember this:

- The greatest need of an **unbeliever** is **salvation**.
- The greatest need of a **believer** is **enlightenment and transformation**.
- The greatest need of a **transformed believer** is **empowerment**.

An unbeliever does not need transformation first; he needs salvation.

Think of salvation as the operating system of a computer. Without an operating system, the computer is as good as dead. You cannot install programmes without first verifying that there is a system to run them.

In the same way, you must get **God in people first** before you talk about transformation. Without the Spirit of God, the capacity to truly be transformed the Bible way is not there.

True transformation is by the Spirit and through the Word. It is not just superior ideas or moral philosophies. It is the Spirit working with the Word that produces lasting change.

Two Major Aspects of Discipleship

Who is learning so far?

There are two major aspects of discipleship. Many books and references, if you study, agree with this.

1. Knowledge-Based Discipleship

This is the first aspect. Knowledge-based discipleship means becoming like Christ by contending for a sound and superior knowledge of Scripture.

It is the journey of enlightenment that comes through structured knowledge of God's Word. No true disciple of Jesus can remain in ignorance. Your discipleship begins with knowing what the Bible says.

The Bible declares: *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”* (John 5:39).

Ladies and gentlemen, many believers—and this is shocking—only interact with the Bible when they hear a sermon on Sunday. Outside church, they never open it.

There are even preachers who, with all due respect, have never read their Bible cover to cover. Imagine someone who wants to be a professor of medicine but has never studied medical textbooks. Would you trust him to perform delicate brain surgery? Certainly not.

Knowledge-based discipleship is about acquiring and transferring spiritual knowledge through the Word of God and word-compliant materials. It helps believers understand God and His ways.

You will meet people who are very enlightened in the Scriptures. They understand salvation, walking in love, and living by faith. They have studied.

However, if you stop at knowledge, you will never fully reflect Christ. Knowledge alone is not enough. Remember the scribes and Pharisees. Among the requirements to be called a Pharisee was to memorise the entire Torah—the five books of Moses—word for word.

These were highly learned men. Paul himself was one of them. Because of his deep knowledge base, when the Holy Spirit encountered him, He could easily rearrange that content and turn Paul into a cutting-edge apostle.

Knowledge is important, but it must not stand alone.

2. Lifestyle-Based Discipleship

The second aspect of discipleship—and the one grossly lacking in the church today—is **lifestyle-based discipleship**.

What does this mean? It means **deciding to adopt the culture and the lifestyle of the Kingdom as demonstrated by Jesus, and then replicating that lifestyle through the enablement of the Spirit**.

I emphasise the word *decide* because it is an act of your will. Grace empowers you, but your will must cooperate with that grace.

Lifestyle-based discipleship means growing into a lifestyle of **obedience** and **surrender** that reflects the life of Christ. These two words—obedience and surrender—must be underlined. You are never a true disciple of Jesus if you do not understand obedience and surrender.

It also means living out the **fruit of the Spirit** in practical experience.

So we have two aspects of discipleship:

1. **Knowledge-based discipleship** – acquiring sound knowledge of Scripture and becoming enlightened in doctrine.
2. **Lifestyle-based discipleship** – reflecting Christ in daily living through obedience, surrender, and the fruit of the Spirit.

More Than Character Modification

Knowledge is important, but it is not enough to change your character. There are many knowledgeable people in the body of Christ who remain wicked, unkind, or without any evidence of the Spirit's fruit in their lives.

Lifestyle-based discipleship is not mere **character modification**. This is not about saying, *“Don't drink, don't steal, don't look at women, don't look at men.”* That is lifestyle modification, and it cannot last.

The flesh cannot be modified. What you need is not behaviour adjustment—you need an **overhaul of the old man** and to put on the new man, which is renewed in the spirit of your mind (Ephesians 4:22–24).

Lifestyle-based discipleship is a **complete change of life and behaviour** to reflect the values of Christ.

A Journey of Growth

When it comes to lifestyle-based discipleship, no one has fully arrived. Everyone is growing progressively.

This is not an area to boast about, because life will test you. Someone will annoy you, and before you know it, you may find yourself responding in the flesh. Then you remember: *“This is not how Christ behaves.”*

It is a journey—especially for leaders. Once you step into leadership, the enemy will often use people to test your patience and character.

History tells of a man of God who loved Jesus and served faithfully, but after his death it was discovered that he had secretly relied on drugs to cope with the stress of ministry. Behind the scenes, he was struggling.

Beloved, even with the Spirit’s help, you will still “die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31). That is the honesty of lifestyle-based discipleship.

The Danger of Pretence

Many in the church are not honest about their struggles. And sadly, many men of God project a god-like image that is not real. Then, when they are caught in anger or weakness, the people are shocked, and the leader has no explanation.

It is not weakness to admit that discipleship is a **progressive journey**. We are all looking unto Jesus together. Some are further along than others, but none of us has “graduated.”

Even as preachers, we must remain students. Holding a microphone does not mean you have outgrown the school of the Spirit. If you focus on ministry and neglect your growth, your lack of transformation will eventually become obvious.

Let us not spiritualise anger, jealousy, and greed, pretending it is the “zeal of the Lord.” No, it is lack of transformation.

A Sobering Example

I once heard of a man of God who demanded that his ministry provide free transport for people attending his programme. The committee agreed, drew up the budget, and presented it to him. When he saw the cost, he exploded in anger—insulting and yelling at his leaders.

Now, God is merciful. That man could still step onto the pulpit, and people would fall under the anointing as he ministered. But the danger is to think that public performance under anointing means you have graduated in the school of the Spirit.

No! God may suspend His dealings with you so you can minister, but once you step down, He resumes His training. He will say, *“This anger, this jealousy, this greed—we must deal with it. Before you embarrass yourself globally, let Me prune you now.”*

God is a Father. He rebukes, but He also covers. Often it is only you and God who know the dealings happening in your life.

Beloved, listen carefully. The reason many people get into all kinds of troubles when they rise—beyond demonic attacks—is because of this: **they skipped a class in the school of the Spirit.**

In the secular, you can sometimes jump a class, read ahead, and still pass the exam. But in the Spirit, the class you skip will haunt you, even after 30 years.

When Satan comes against a life, he verifies the classes you skipped. Pride, arrogance, and the arrival mentality are evidence of skipped dealings.

In the kingdom, there is no “big man.” In His presence, we are all children, rolling before Him and crying, *“Lord, show me mercy. If You have made my life a model, then help me sustain it.”*

No man is too big to fall. No man is too big to fail. Even Jesus, in the garden, cried, *“Father, if it be Thy will, let this cup pass from Me”* (Luke 22:42). It was a negotiation with pain. But He surrendered.

Stripped Before God

Your liberty in the Spirit begins the day you realise that if God does not help you, help cannot come from anywhere.

That is why you must remove the regalia of “apostle,” “prophet,” “pastor,” or “bishop” and simply cry as a child, *“Lord, help me.”*

There is something I know about God: **He will never raise you to drop you.** But if you allow men’s applause to push you out of His hand, then you will surely crash like a pack of cards.

The church today is full of believers with deep spiritual knowledge. They can preach powerfully, but once the matter of money or hidden character comes up, everything changes.

This is why ministry must be taught with wisdom.

Letters to Children, Young Men, and Fathers

Scripture says: “*I write unto you, little children... I write unto you, young men... I write unto you, fathers*” (1 John 2:12–14).

This means there are dealings of God peculiar to each level of growth. The problem comes when children begin to read the letters of fathers, or when young men handle matters meant only for fathers.

- **Children** are innocent; they can run around naked without shame.
- **Young men** have energy but are self-conscious; they now know what to cover.
- **Fathers** carry weight. If you ever see an adult walking naked, you call him mad. But a child doing the same is not called mad—it is excused.

This is how growth in discipleship works. There are things children cannot handle, but fathers can.

Wisdom means knowing what to reveal and what to conceal. If you are a leader, not every issue in your organisation should be shared with everybody. It is not lack of transparency—it is wisdom that preserves honour.

Covering the Nakedness

Noah drank wine and became drunk, lying uncovered in his tent (Genesis 9:21–27). His sons saw their father’s nakedness. Some mocked him, but one son took a garment, walked backward, and covered him.

When Noah awoke, he cursed the one who exposed him and blessed the one who covered him.

Learn this: **what you think you are exposing in fathers, others can see too. But not everyone is authorised to speak. Some matters are left for God alone.**

This is discipleship. Not just Bible study, but wisdom and maturity in handling the affairs of the kingdom.

“I write unto you, little children... I write unto you, young men... I write unto you, fathers.” (1 John 2:12–14)

Beloved, there are letters that belong to children, letters that belong to young men, and letters that belong to fathers. Fathers can read the letters of children, because they are the ones who deliver them. But children cannot handle the letters of fathers.

When you see fathers, keep quiet. Wait until you reach certain levels. It is easy to criticise from the sidelines when you are not carrying responsibility.

“Oh, this man is greedy. This man loves money. This man is too concerned with wealth.” Don’t rush. The day one thousand people call you and say, *“Please pay the school fees of our children,”* you will know the true value of wealth.

Having travelled and seen a little of the world, let me tell you—many sermons people are preaching today, they will repent of a thousand times when they step into deeper responsibilities.

Now listen carefully—I am not endorsing licentiousness. God forbid! But I am saying: until you get to certain levels of pressure, just keep quiet.

The day someone places ten billion before you, asking only for a signature that can change your destiny forever, that is when you will know what it means to stand for truth. The day a child is kidnapped and the kidnapper says, *“Compromise or we will kill your child tomorrow,”* that is the day you will discover the depth of your convictions.

It is easy to resist money. Even unbelievers can resist money sometimes. But when it is your wife, your child, your blood crying, *“Daddy, help me!”* and you

are torn between justice and family—that is the day your foundations will be tested.

This is why there are letters for fathers. Young men, be careful. Many of us have not tasted these levels. Some of us cannot even handle house rent without telling lies, yet we think we are ready to handle national destinies.

The older men get, the more silent they become. It is young people that shout carelessly about matters they have not lived. Five months into marriage and you want to be a counsellor to all. Be careful! A woman who has walked faithfully in marriage for forty years will smile at you and say, “*My son, take it easy.*”

Let’s return to the teaching.

The Absence of Discipleship

Bad and unruly behaviours among pastors and leaders are largely the result of the absence of true discipleship.

Stealing, corruption, hatred, envy—these things persist, even among believers, because there has not been proper discipleship.

I once listened to the lamentation of a man wronged in his office. Out of the eight people who schemed against him, seven were professing Christians, and three were members of his own church! It pierced my heart.

It was not strangers who betrayed Jesus; it was Judas. It was not strangers in the Bible who first shed blood; it was Cain who killed his brother.

I am not teaching you to be judgmental. I am teaching you to see the depth of our need for God's help. The real secret of national transformation is not just in electing leaders. Leadership matters, yes, but true transformation comes from the **mass emergence of reformed and transformed people**.

Leaders can create enabling environments and protect policies, but only transformed people can transform society.

What True Discipleship Is—and What It Is Not

Discipleship, if not carefully taught, can become a religious ritual that traps believers in bondage. Sadly, many things we call discipleship in the church today are not Bible discipleship.

- It is not bondage.
- It is not about pressuring believers to copy a pastor's personality.
- It is not about forcing members into conformity with denominational traditions alone.

True discipleship is **becoming like Christ in experience.**

It is not making slaves of men in order to appease the standards of others. Our pride sometimes makes us set ourselves up as the standard—saying, *“If you don’t look like me, you are not like Christ.”* That is error.

A man can walk with God and become a worthy model, yes. Fathers exist whose lives are honourable, consistent, and worthy of emulation. But even then, the goal is **not to be like them, but to be like Christ.**

If you become like Jesus Christ and not like me, I am satisfied. But if you become like me without becoming like Christ, I have destroyed your destiny.

Elements of Discipleship

For discipleship to be effective, it must capture certain foundational elements. Without these, no matter what else is taught, you cannot raise true disciples of Christ. Tonight, let us walk through a few of them.

1. Salvation Through the Finished Work of Christ

No one can truly become like Christ without first understanding salvation through His finished work. Salvation is not earned through rituals, works of the flesh, or self-righteousness—it is received by grace through faith.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Here, “works” does not mean godly actions such as prayer or obedience. It refers to rituals, religious customs, and traditions under the old law. Salvation is never achieved by rituals, but only by accepting the finished work of Christ and receiving it by faith.

2. The Responsibility of Obedience and Alignment

Grace empowers, but your will must cooperate with grace. Discipleship must teach the responsibility of surrender, alignment, and obedience in becoming like Christ.

Prayer requires time. Studying the Word requires discipline. There is no gift of instant spirituality. If believers are not taught this responsibility component, they will become lazy and entitled, abusing the grace of God and turning it into a licence for sin.

3. Walking in Love

True disciples must be taught to walk in love—love for God and love for people.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us...” (Ephesians 5:1–2)

The highest proof of discipleship is not power, not wisdom, not titles. Jesus said:

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:35)

Walking in love includes giving, forgiving, rebuking in love, and living with compassion. Forgiveness remains the highest demonstration of love.

4. Living by the Word

A disciple of Jesus must value the Word of God above all. The Word is the believer’s food, light, and life.

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)

If you can read many other books but find no appetite for the Scriptures, it is an attack on your destiny. At age twelve, Jesus Himself was found in the temple, sitting among the doctors, hearing and asking them questions. (Luke 2:46–47).

Every true disciple must cultivate a burning passion for the Word of God.

5. Living by Faith

The Christian life is a faith-walk. Without faith, you cannot live victoriously.

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Ephesians 6:16)

“...The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38; Habakkuk 2:4)

Faith commits God’s integrity to perform in your life. This is why the Bible says:

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4)

6. Productivity as a Key to Impact and Economic Emancipation

Another vital element of discipleship is productivity. The believer must be taught to be fruitful in every good work, not only spiritually but also in life and vocation. Productivity is the key to impact and to breaking the chains of poverty and economic bondage.

Do not stop at teaching holiness. Do not stop at teaching prayer. Do not stop at teaching love. As wonderful as these are, you must also teach people the principles of productivity.

Why? Because this is where discipleship benefits the larger society. Productivity becomes the key to impact and to economic emancipation.

If you fail to teach people productivity, they will resort to stealing, because they have bills to pay. Without productivity, men will be beggarly, homes will break under the weight of financial stress, and laziness will spread unchecked. A man will refuse to care for his family and then blame it on the fact that he is an usher in church. No! Ushering does not make you a lazy husband.

A Lesson from Dr. Myles Munroe

The late Dr. Myles Munroe once shared the story of a woman whose marriage was almost destroyed because of church. Her husband grew bitter, insisting that she had neglected him and the children because of her frequent church attendance. He even asked her, “Who is really your husband—me or your pastor?”

Desperate, she told Dr. Myles she could no longer come to church. To her surprise, he advised her, “*Go back home. Your husband is right. Take care of your home.*” She obeyed, and her husband, shocked by her decision, began to reconsider. Over time, he followed her to church, met Dr. Myles, and discovered a ministry that was not destroying families but transforming them. Eventually, that man became a worker in the church.

The Proof of True Discipleship

True discipleship must never produce unproductive people. You should never attend Koinonia faithfully and then on Monday be a careless worker in your office, a bad wife, or a lazy husband. That would mean the teaching has failed.

The true pride of every man of God is not in having a crowd, not in raising money, and not in filling conferences. It is in seeing Christ truly formed in people.

That is why we must teach productivity. It preserves homes, restores dignity, and prevents believers from falling into economic captivity.

A Balanced Discipleship

Discipleship must cover every area of life. If it is finances, we will teach it. If it is prayer, we will teach it. If it is character, we will teach it. If it is dying to the flesh, we will rebuke, comfort, and train until you look like Christ.

Sometimes these teachings will stretch you. Sometimes they will offend you. Sometimes you will feel like walking away. But God's commitment is clear: **He will not stop until Christ is fully formed in you.**

This is leadership. This is discipleship. This is the making of men and women who will stand before kings, turn down bribes, honour their families, and shine as light in a dark world.

The Mandate to Disciple Nations

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, what God has prepared for you.

So you submit to His work in you, till Christ be formed in you; till His glory rests in you;

till His wisdom governs you;

till His life flows through you.

He has given you a destiny and a purpose to fulfil.

So with every breath in you, spend your life to see Jesus revealed and glorified.”

Beloved, hear me. We are not the only ones doing what we are doing, but wait for the next five years, wait for the next ten years — you will see what God is doing with this move of the Spirit across the nations.

From Glasgow to New York, from Calgary to Kenya, to Ghana, to South Africa, and here in Nigeria, we are discipling nations. You don't need to be in power to be in power. All you need is to be with God, and He will send you to kings. We will teach rulers the ways of God. We will bring Micah chapter 4 to pass:

“And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths.”

I am humbled at the calibre of people following this move across the globe — presidencies, billionaires, boardrooms, entire corporations. Companies have used these teachings as their retreat manuals. Recently, I had the privilege of sitting with the board of Safaricom in Kenya, a company serving over fifty million people and processing thousands of transactions per second. We prayed together, and I watched as the wisdom of God found expression in corporate strategy. This is discipleship. This is nation building.

The True Fix for Nations

Listen, nations are not first fixed from government houses; they are fixed from the altar. Those who will carry God's transformation into government are being raised in the church right now.

A day will come when a policymaker will excuse himself from a meeting, not just for a tea break, but to seek the face of God. And you will discover that senators, judges, bankers, and even presidents are tongue-talking men and women who bow to the authority of Christ.

This is bigger than politics. This is the emergence of reformers, of men and women of covenant, of a breed without greed — people who will take Christ into every sphere.

The matchstick may look small, but light one candle, then another, and soon the entire room is bright. We will see this generation filled with such light.

A Prophetic Vision of the Future

God is raising a people who will not need bribes to succeed. Men and women who will stand for righteousness in government, business, education, and society. It does not yet appear what we shall be, but keep watching. This teaching is software. Once it enters you, you cannot undo it.

One day, you will wake up to find yourself sitting among kings and captains of industry, asking yourself, "How did I get here?" And the answer will be: *The mysteries of the kingdom brought me here.*

Soon, the church will not be laughed at. The days of mockery are ending. The church will be the incubator of the nation's reformers. Whether in education, law, finance, sports, missions, policymaking, or industry — we will be there. We will disciple nations.

We will have the power to shut the gates of darkness over territories. With policymakers, judges, intercessors, financiers, and leaders working together as one Body, nations will be turned back to God.

These are not dreams. These are realities unfolding before our eyes. The greatest days of the church are not behind us. They are now.

Oh, it will be exciting to be a child of God in these days. No longer will Christianity be reduced to a boring routine of attending services. From Monday to Saturday, your life will be the unfolding wisdom of God.

This is the destiny of discipleship: Christ formed in you, and Christ revealed through you, until nations bow to His Lordship.

The Weight of Discipleship: Productivity, Responsibility, and Selflessness

How many of you know that just missing this element of productivity alone, you can programme someone to fail as a person, fail as a father, fail as a leader, simply because he did not know that productivity should also be captured in discipling people?

I am not one of those who tell people not to skill or not to learn. I show you a superior alternative. There is a way — not an alternative meant for men of God alone.

Responsibility as a Lifestyle

Please be seated. Write this down: What else should be captured in proper discipleship that raises mighty men?

In addition to productivity as a key to impact and economic emancipation, **responsibility as a lifestyle.**

Every gift, every open door, every lifting and increase — whether in ministry, family, politics, or career — must be seen as a gift that comes with responsibilities attached to it.

The word *responsibility* comes from two words: *response ability*. It is your ability to respond.

- When someone stands to marry, he should not just say “yes” while his friends are dancing; he should recognise that marriage is a gift that comes with responsibility.
- When a man is promoted to CEO, it should not end with a party and laughter. He must embrace the responsibility component.

- As a preacher entrusted with people — whether two members, a hundred, or a thousand — it is not just about being celebrated with cars or sponsorships. It comes with weighty responsibility.

The men in our society will change if discipleship captures **responsibility**.

Sadly, some of the most irresponsible men in society are Christians, simply because of unbalanced teaching about favour, grace, and destiny helpers. While favour is true, it must be balanced with the **dignity of responsibility**.

You cannot remain around me and be irresponsible. No!

- If you are married, I will ask you: *“What are you doing with your wife and children? Who takes care of them?”*
- If your wife got pregnant in January, do not run around begging on the day of delivery. She gave you nine months’ notice. Responsibility!
- When your child gains admission, you should not be scrambling at the last minute. Prepare!

Every gift comes with responsibility. We must teach our young people, our children, and our churches.

When you give a child a phone, tell him, *“This is a gift, but it comes with responsibility.”*

When you hand over a car, say, *“This comes with responsibility.”*

Even Jesus, after being exalted to the right hand of the Father, continues His responsibility: *making intercession for the saints*. (Romans 8:34)

If we embrace gifts without their responsibility component, those gifts can destroy us.

A Call to Leadership

Let me charge the politicians and leaders in Nigeria: for God's sake, let us begin to look at the destiny of this nation **beyond ourselves**.

If you are a governor, senator, or leader, your time is limited. A day will come when you must leave. Live nobly. Do not merely acquire things; make a mark.

Nigerians are among the brightest minds globally. We can aggregate our human capital, build structures, and change this nation.

I thank God for the privilege of representing Christ and Nigeria abroad. By His grace, we are rewriting the narrative:

- Not all Nigerians are criminals.
- Not all Nigerians are corrupt.
- By the mercies of God, we are exporting the gospel, integrity, and reform.

It will happen — little by little. I am not a politician, but I will raise politicians. I will raise businessmen.

One day, seated here, there will be governors of states. This is not mere encouragement. I am prophesying!

Selflessness: The Final Element

What else must be captured in true discipleship? **Selflessness**.

There is no true disciple of Jesus who does not learn selflessness. Nothing God created exists for itself. Everything lives by serving a purpose bigger than itself.

Professor John Kennedy once said: *“Those who live for others live beyond their time.”*

No one has ever received a Nobel Prize for receiving; it is always for **giving** and for **contributions**.

When people embrace selflessness:

- Corruption dies a natural death.
- Greed dies a natural death.

Selflessness does not mean endorsing poverty. No! I will never raise a poor people. But selflessness is detachment from selfish ambition.

If you are not selfless, God cannot use you beyond certain heights. To make impact, you must live for others.

Tools for Effective Discipleship

There are five tools that must be available for discipleship to happen:

1. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The first requirement for discipleship the Bible way is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Any discipleship that ignores the Spirit cannot be true. It will only become a burdensome ritual created by men. Only the Holy Spirit transforms a man from the inside out. No amount of rituals can do that. Rituals will only produce eye-service, as has happened to many people.

2. The Word of God

Scripture must be the foundation for the truths communicated. Not mere ideas. Not just church policies, except those policies are rooted in the Word of God.

3. Teachers, Mentors, and Role Models

Discipleship requires men and women who embody:

- Knowledge
- Character

- Transformation
- Consistency
- Results

Jeremiah 3:15 (KJV): *“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”*

4. A Spiritual Family

A spiritual family is a community of like-minded believers that allows for fellowship and social interaction. It is impossible to truly be disciplined in isolation.

Hebrews 10:25 (KJV): *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*

- Kingdom community living sustains kingdom values.
- A broomstick cannot sweep alone, but when many are bound together, they become effective. So it is with believers.

The early church had their company. When persecuted, they returned to their company (Acts 4:23). Peter, when released from prison, went to the company of praying believers (Acts 12:12).

A spiritual family is also where godly friendships, marriages, and partnerships are formed. This is why believers must be careful not to be unequally yoked with those who do not share covenant values (2 Corinthians 6:14).

5. A Platform for Service

True discipleship must find expression in service. Until you serve the purposes of God, especially within His house, you cannot be called a disciple.

Matthew 20:27–28 (KJV): *“And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

The cross of discipleship is the cross of service — living for Jesus all your days.

Fruits of Discipleship

How do you know a true disciple? The fruits are the evidences of discipleship.

The greatest fruit of a thoroughly disciplined believer is a **balanced Christian life** that reflects the following:

1. The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22 (KJV): *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”*

The first evidence of discipleship is the gradual, progressive emergence of the fruit of the Spirit, especially the **love nature of Christ**.

It is greater than good preaching, large ministry, or excellent communication. Without the fruit of the Spirit, you cannot claim to be a true disciple.

2. Death to Self

The second fruit is **death to self**. A true disciple is one who has been so worked upon by the Spirit and the Word that he loses his unhealthy attachment to pleasure.

What does it mean to die to self?

- A detachment from an excessive love for pleasure.
- The embrace of modesty, even in the presence of abundance.
- The discipline to put a cap on excess materialism so that your followership of Christ remains pure.

Enjoy the blessings of God, but never let them corrupt the purity of your walk.

You don't have to live in poverty or live a miserable life to prove that you love Jesus. That is not the point. But there is a level of decent living and modesty

that every true disciple must embrace. Generally speaking, I advise those under my care: minimise an excessive lifestyle.

Are we together? Avoid unnecessary show-offs. There are necessary needs, and there are blessings you should freely enjoy without guilt. Don't feel guilty for being successful, but live modestly. This principle has been proven both from Scripture and modern history as the safest template for following Christ.

You can be a billionaire and enjoy your billions, yet still live a modest life within your realm. Are we together? Death to self must be taught to believers. Once a man dies to self, you can't bribe him again. Certain appetites die and never return.

3. Placing Priority on Jesus

The third fruit of true discipleship is placing priority on Jesus as the most important relationship in your life—greater than friends, greater than family, greater than your spouse, and even greater than your children.

I am not saying ignore them; no. But no relationship on earth should have the power to tamper with your love for Jesus. If your wife tampers with your relationship with Jesus, she has become an idol. If your husband, children, or job do the same, they too have become idols.

This does not excuse irresponsibility. Some people neglect their families in the name of church and blame it on loving Jesus. That is not discipleship. The Bible says: *“How can you love God whom you have not seen if you do not love your brother whom you have seen?”*

But hear me: a true disciple of Jesus makes Him the unrivalled priority. Your family should know this, your spouse should know this, and your children should be taught this. Teach them: *“I love you with all my heart, but when it comes to Jesus, He is first.”*

This is the pattern of the patriarchs. Jesus is not meant to be part of the many things in your life—He is the centre. The reason many give up easily on Him is because He was never a priority.

4. Freedom from Mammon

The fourth fruit of discipleship is freedom from **mammon**—that ungodly, unhealthy attachment to money and material things.

You cannot be a true disciple of Jesus if mammon still has a grip on your heart. That doesn't mean you can't be wealthy. No. You can be the wealthiest man alive, run businesses, control corporations, and still be free from mammon.

The proof is this: anything you cannot let go of has become your god. Anything.

Often, God instructs His children to give—not because He needs their money, but as a way to prune their hearts and kill the attachment to mammon. Sometimes He will demand something costly, like He did with Abraham and Isaac.

If you've walked with God for some years and He has never demanded a painful sacrifice from you, wait. One day He will. And when it comes, it will be so clear you can't excuse it.

You may have prayed, fasted, and consecrated yourself, only for God to ask for your best seed—your salary, your land, your car, or a treasure you've waited years to receive. And you'll wonder, "*Lord, why now?*" But He is cutting that invisible string tying your heart to mammon.

When that string is cut, you'll discover a new liberty. And then, God can trust you with greater wealth, because it will never control you again.

Beloved, this is discipleship. It is not theory. It is the school of the Spirit where appetites are broken, and Jesus becomes Lord indeed.

The reason many believers never experience true kingdom prosperity is this: those who have an insatiable appetite for money rarely receive it by God's hand. You must die to mammon.

Freedom from mammon is not negotiable. If you are rejoicing that your church does not ask for money as proof that you are in the clear, be careful—greed may be hiding in your heart. God will test you personally. One day, in the place of prayer, He will ask for that which you treasure most. Until your love for mammon dies, your discipleship is not complete.

I speak to you by the mercies of God: there is no amount of money that can derail my passion for Jesus. By His grace, I have been tested. And my testimony remains: *“You are everything. You are the thirst. You are the stream. You are the hunger deep inside of me. You are the food that satisfies. You are provision for the journey of my life.”* That is the song of a true disciple.

No matter what He gives, no matter how high you rise—Jesus must remain everything.

Mammon is a cancer. It has aborted great destinies, destroyed pastors, robbed men of integrity, and wasted generations. Young ministers, hear me: if you discover that money and material things define your sense of worth, don't condemn yourself, but retreat immediately. Go and wrestle with God until mammon loses its grip.

Dress well, live well, drive cars, build houses—there is no crime in that. Poverty is not our friend. But never let money define your identity. For a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions (Luke 12:15). True disciples must die to mammon.

5. Victory and Dominion

The fifth fruit of discipleship is **victory and dominion by engaging the mysteries of the kingdom.**

A true disciple cannot remain a perpetual failure in every area of life. Yes, there may be seasons of training and pruning. Yes, there may be times of seeming lack. But eventually, a life of victory must emerge. The Scripture declares: *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Romans 8:37).

Victory and dominion are the heritage of true disciples. They are the evidence that the mysteries of the kingdom—faith, obedience, service, sacrifice, prayer—are working in your life.

6. Freedom from the Fear of Persecution and Death

Finally, the sixth fruit of true discipleship is **freedom from the fear of persecution and death.**

You are not yet a true disciple until you come to this point. A true disciple is one who lives for Christ and, if need be, can die for Him.

The early Church understood this well. In our day, however, the modern believer fears death, persecution, and even reputational attacks. We want to be seeker-friendly, always accepted, always applauded. But Jesus said: *“If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?”* (Matthew 10:25).

Persecution is not strange. Misunderstanding is not strange. False accusations are not strange. Avoid trouble when possible, yes. But if suffering comes on account of the cross, stand with dignity.

Paul said: “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*” (Philippians 1:21). He longed not only to know the power of Christ’s resurrection but also to share in His sufferings (Philippians 3:10).

This is the path of discipleship. To die to self. To die to mammon. To be free from the fear of persecution and death. To stand for Jesus in life, and if need be, in death.

Beloved, this is the making of disciples. These fruits mark the difference between church attendees and kingdom ambassadors.

Learn How to Die for Jesus

One of the most neglected dimensions of discipleship is the call to die for Jesus. Not all will face it the same way, but every true Christian must be taught this reality.

I am a young man, yet I have seen crisis. I was in Jos during the post-election violence. I was in Zaria during uprisings. At the height of Boko Haram's terror in Maiduguri, I travelled to minister for NCCF. My flight was cancelled, but I insisted on going by road because the brethren were waiting. I passed Kano, and less than an hour later there was a bomb blast. Still, I pressed on.

I spent a night in Potiskum under military closure. No, it was not poverty—it was the privilege of the fellowship of His sufferings. As mosquitoes bit and discomfort surrounded me, joy welled up in my spirit: *“Lord, I am doing this for Your glory. With all honour.”*

Beloved, somewhere along your Christian journey, you will be faced with a choice—between Jesus and this life. For some, it is subtle; for others, it is a matter of life and death. You are not a true Christian if you are not prepared to face this.

The Declaration of a Disciple

We often sing:

“I have decided to follow Jesus,

No turning back, no turning back.”

But let me warn you: do not sing it casually. It is not just a song—it is a covenant declaration. If you are not yet ready to die to self, to flesh, or even for Christ, hold back until you are. Because the day you truly die to this world, then you can sing it with honour.

The hymn writer declared: *“I will be a true soldier, I will die at my post.”* That is discipleship. Not conferences, not Greek and Hebrew, not suits and designer wear, not numbers and crowds. To die if need be—that is the price.

Like soldiers, some die in battle, some survive with scars, and others live to become generals. In the kingdom also, some finish well, others fall in active battle, others transition while still fighting. Every soldier of the cross must be ready.

A thoroughly disciplined believer must embrace both the victories and the sufferings of Christ.

- The fruit of the Spirit: inner transformation to Christlikeness.
- Death to self: detachment from excessive pleasures and worldly desires.
- Modesty in life, excellence in conduct, with focus on Jesus as the highest treasure.
- Freedom from mammon: never defining your worth by possessions.
- Victory and dominion: engaging the mysteries of the Word.
- Freedom from the fear of persecution and death: standing boldly for Christ in every season.

Persecution is not licence to seek trouble. Some have died of foolishness, not the cross. But if, after doing all, it meets you in battle, then you stand.

The Eternal Warning

I once sat on a flight that seemed as though it would fall from the sky. I asked myself quietly: *“So, is this the day?”*

Let me tell you the truth without apology: if you die without Jesus, you are going to hell. There is no repentance in the grave. The rich man cried out in torment, begging that his family be warned (Luke 16:27–31). But it was too late.

Now you have the Bible. Now you have the prophets. Now you have vessels whom God has raised. Do not wait until death to learn this lesson.

The Great Day of Judgment

The Bible says, *“And the books were opened, and another book was opened...”* (Revelation 20:12). On that day, the arrogance of men will collapse. Every hidden work will be revealed.

The man who dies without Jesus Christ is already judged. The final judgment—the second death—is only the official relocation of souls into eternal separation with Satan. But those whose names are in the Book of Life will stand in honour, and their works will be rewarded. Missionaries, martyrs, and faithful believers—heaven will call their names one by one.

We used to sing in seminary:

“When the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there...”

But let’s be honest—some only sing it with their lips, not with their lives. Not everyone will be there. Entrance into heaven is not by works, but by Jesus. Works are rewarded in heaven, but salvation comes only through faith in Christ.

The Altar Call

Beloved, tonight's altar call is not casual. This is eternal destiny.

Whether you are online across the nations, in the sanctuary, a pastor, a worker, or simply a seeker—you can make it right with Jesus. Not because of fear of death, but because eternity without Him is eternal damnation.

Jesus died to save you from that fate. He paid the price so that you would not lose both body and soul forever.

I am going to count one to five, and I ask that if you have understood this message, leave your seat and come forward. Online, wherever you are, bow your head. This is your night.

- If you've never received Jesus, come.
- If you once walked with Him but backslid, come.
- If you cannot confidently say you are in fellowship with Him, come.

“When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there...”

The Prayer of Salvation

Lift your right hand and pray this prayer sincerely:

“Lord Jesus, I have heard Your word. I love You with all my heart. I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for my sins. I believe You rose again for my justification. Today, I receive forgiveness of sins. I receive Your life. I declare that Jesus is my Saviour, my Lord, and my King. The power of sin, Satan, hell, and the grave is broken over my life. From tonight, I am a child of God. I go forward ever, backward never. Amen.”

The Blessing of the New Life

Father, thank You for these precious ones—here and online. They have made a noble decision tonight, and according to Your Word, You will in no wise cast them away.

I declare:

- The power of sin, Satan, and the grave is broken over your life.
- The grace to live victoriously in Christ is released upon you.
- You are established as a disciple of Jesus, growing daily in His image.

In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Congratulations! Welcome to the family of God. Your name is written in the Book of Life. This is the greatest decision of your life—cherish it, grow in it, and walk with Jesus all your days.

Final Instructions and Benediction

Beloved, I beseech you by the mercies of God: please read this book at least **two times**.

This is not an ordinary sermon—it is a **renewal message**. Media will make it available as two separate sermons this week so that you can camp around it and allow it to sink deep into your spirit.

Some of you can listen daily. Others can listen twice or three times before the week is over. Let it minister to you in the night, in your office, after work, or during your prayer time. Whenever it stirs your heart, turn it into prayer—with tears, if need be.

Do not be distracted. Share it with your brothers, sisters, and fellow pastors. Carry it to someone who needs to be built.

And a word to the Body of Christ:

- Care less about theological debates.
- If you hear something you do not agree with, let it pass.
- Focus on the truths that convict, correct, and transform.

The power of this word is not in flawless grammar or doctrinal accuracy—it is in the grace it carries to change men.

Closing Blessings

In the name of Jesus Christ:

- From this week, you will be a true reflection of a Christian.
- Every victory in Christ will manifest in your life.
- Every breakthrough purchased by the blood of Jesus will show forth in your family, your business, and your ministry.
- Everything that ties you to the world is disconnected in Jesus' name.
- Yet in the midst of detachment, you will enjoy the abundance of the Lord.
- Your hands will be filled with good things. Your home will be filled with joy.
- Wisdom rests upon you. Favour rests upon you.

May the Lord raise you as a captain over His inheritance.

- Monday is blessed.
- Tuesday is blessed.
- Wednesday is blessed.
- Thursday is blessed.
- Friday is blessed.
- Saturday is blessed.
- Sunday is blessed.

Blessed be your children, your family, your business, your city, your nation, and your continent. Go in peace and return with testimonies.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with us now and forever. Amen.

Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

About the Preacher

Apostle Joshua Selman Nimmak is a recognised teacher of God's Word, mentor, and apostolic voice to the Body of Christ in this generation. He is the founder of Koinonia Global (Eternity Network International), a ministry dedicated to transforming lives through preaching the gospel, demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit, and establishing Kingdom culture on earth.

Apostle Selman is widely respected for his depth in Scripture, his prophetic insight, and his emphasis on intimacy with God, character, and spiritual empowerment. His messages cut across salvation, discipleship, leadership, kingdom prosperity, and preparing the saints for the coming of Christ.

Through his life and ministry, countless individuals have encountered Jesus Christ, experienced deliverance, and been equipped to live victorious Kingdom lives.

About Living Sermons

Living Sermons is a Kingdom-focused digital publishing platform dedicated to preserving, formatting, and distributing life-transforming messages from trusted servants of God. Our mission is to ensure that sermons inspired by the Holy Spirit are accessible in written form for study, meditation, and reference by believers around the world.

We are committed to producing clean, professional, and faithful transcripts that retain the voice, tone, and anointing of the preacher. Every resource published through Living Sermons is freely distributed to edify the Body of Christ, strengthen the faith of believers, and advance the gospel of the Kingdom across nations.

For more resources, visit: www.livingsermons.com

Join the Livingsermons.com Team

The vision of **Livingsermons.com** is to make the timeless truths of God's Word freely available to all, by publishing ebooks from transcribed sermons that transform lives. This work is growing rapidly, and we cannot do it alone.

We are inviting passionate believers to volunteer their time and skills to help us build this platform for the Kingdom. If you desire to serve God with your gifts, please prayerfully consider joining our team in any of the following roles:

1. Transcribers

- Listen carefully to sermon recordings and produce accurate transcripts.
- Ensure clarity, proper flow, and preservation of the preacher's voice.
- Must have strong listening skills and attention to detail.

2. Editors

- Proofread and refine transcripts into readable, well-structured ebooks.
- Maintain accuracy while preserving the power and tone of the preacher's message.
- Must have excellent grammar skills and a sensitivity to Christian publishing standards.

3. Bloggers (Familiar with WordPress)

- Create engaging posts about newly published ebooks.
- Optimise posts with SEO (using focus keyphrases, meta descriptions, categories, tags).
- Ensure ebooks are well-presented for readers on Livingsermons.com.

4. Social Media Managers

- Share ebooks and excerpts on social platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).
- Create short captions, reels, and graphics to drive traffic.
- Engage with readers online and help grow our digital community.

How to Volunteer

If you feel led to join us in any of these roles, kindly reach out via our [Volunteer Page](#) on Livingsermons.com. Specify the role you are interested in, your relevant skills, and how you'd like to serve.

Together, let's spread the knowledge of Christ to the nations through His Word.

Follow Us

 **Email:** info.livingsermons@gmail.com

 **Website:** www.livingsermons.com

 **Facebook:** facebook.com/livingsermons

 **Instagram:** instagram.com/livingsermons

 **Twitter (X):** twitter.com/livingsermons1