

WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE?

The answer is the **7 Marks of a Healthy Disciple**. These 7 core competencies will be more and more evident when you are a healthy, biblical, reproducing disciple of Jesus Christ as a result of being in the “**sweet spot of spiritual growth**.” They will become more evident because of the Holy Spirit’s work in your life as you grow into a disciple *who is totally committed to following Christ, becoming like Him in supreme love of God, selfless love for others, and sacrificial love for the world.*

But it’s not the whole answer. To help you understand what the 7 Marks of a Healthy Disciple are and what your life, as a biblical, loving, Spirit-filled disciple, will look like, here are 3-4 practical (and biblical) expressions for each one. Our desire is that you use these to reflect upon and evaluate the spiritual growth you are experiencing both personally and with your Discipling Community on a regular basis. The life of a disciple of Jesus isn’t just theory; it is very practical.

INTRODUCING OTHERS TO JESUS (✝)

Representing and proclaiming (i.e. evangelism) Christ in practical and real ways to friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and others in our sphere of influence. Looking to BLESS people with the good news of Jesus Christ because of being deeply concerned about people who are missing the fullness of life in Christ. (Luke 19:10, John 20:21, John 3:18, Eph 2:12, Rom 6:17)

- I can comfortably explain the Gospel and clearly tell others that salvation is through faith, not works. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8)
- I actively live in a way that visibly reflects Christ to this world and demonstrates to others that Christ is real. (Philippians 1:27, Acts 1:8)
- I love others as Christ loves me through kindness, compassion, and caring for the brokenness of those in my sphere of influence. (Matthew 22:39, John 13:34, Ephesians 4:32, Luke 10:27-37)
- I glorify God in speech and actions everywhere He sends me. (Colossians 3:17, John 20:21)

PRAYING: OUR PRIMARY WORK

Engaging in daily conversations with God that include praise, repentance, asking, and yielding and are a continual part of life. This includes listening and intercession both individually, in community, and as a corporate body. Prayer is a transparent dialogue. It is a conversation with God in which we address Him and in quiet are addressed by Him. (John 15:5,

Philippians 4:6-7)

- I cultivate regular spiritual disciplines of communing with God through listening and yielding to His voice. (Deuteronomy 17:18-19)
- I intercede for others rather than judging, criticizing, or condemning. (Romans 14:1-7, Ephesians 1:16)
- I pray with perseverance, and my prayers are not only requests, but also include thanksgiving and confession. (Ephesians 1:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 John 1:9, Philippians 4:6-7, Ephesians 6:18)

STEWARDED RESOURCES GENEROUSLY

Using and managing well what God has given the individual and the church. This includes time, skills, gifts, and resources. It is recognizing that everything the disciple possesses actually belongs to God, whether little or much, so we are generous with these things out of gratefulness for His generosity toward us. Our giving is also joyful because our priority is to advance the Kingdom of God. (Luke 21:1-4)

- I honor God by recognizing that all I am and all I have belongs to Him. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 12:1)
- I support the ministry of the local church with faithful attendance and involvement by serving. (Hebrews 10:25)
- I give generously and consistently out of the personal income and resources God has given me. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Luke 21:1-4, 1 Chronicles 29:14)
- I share my time, treasures, and talents with those in need as opportunities present themselves. (1 John 3:17)

KNOWING & OBEYING GOD’S WORD

The Word is the rule of life for the disciple. It is our foundation of knowing and understanding God and living the life we’ve been created to live. It is recognizing that the essence of Scripture is Jesus Christ Himself, our Savior and Lord. We worship Christ for who He is and what He has done, and thus choose to live in loving obedience. (James 1:22, Matt 28:20)

- I resist the temptations of Satan, avoiding all forms and the appearance of immorality. (1 Peter 5:8, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:21b-22)
- I know the Word of God, and apply it daily in my life. (Ephesians 6:14, James 1:22)
- I live life as a new creation of God, loving Him with all that I am. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 22:37)
- I actively learn sound biblical doctrine, so that I can train others to be disciples. (1 Timothy 1:3-4)

COMPLETING THE GREAT COMMISSION

The primary heartbeat of the disciple is the Great Commission. It involves praying, giving, and going – serving together to make disciples – both in our own backyard and to the ends of the earth. Nothing is more central to the purpose of the Church than this command of Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20)

- I embrace and am involved in promoting and supporting the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- I love others as myself in light of Christ’s love for me. (Matthew 22:39, John 13:34)
- I live in expectation of the Lord’s return and this is reflected in my choices, priorities, beliefs, and worldview. (Luke 12:35-36)

DEPENDING ON THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Holy Spirit is the life and power of the effective, growing disciple. While requiring our active participation, the call of discipleship cannot be accomplished in our own strength. As we fully surrender, the Holy Spirit imparts everything necessary for an abundant and holy life in Christ. (Matt. 5:6,

John 15:5, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, 1 Chron. 29:14)

- I know that my spiritual life comes from and through God, and so I seek daily to deny myself and instead be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18, Luke 9:23, John 3:3-7, Romans 5:1-5, John 15:5)
- I am growing in righteousness, maturity, and in loving, truthful, Spirit-filled communication. (Matthew 5:6, Ephesians 4:14-15)
- I demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in my life as a disciple, and others see this. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- I seek to know and use my spiritual gift(s) for the benefit of the church as a whole. (1 Corinthians 12)

TAKING FAITH-FILLED RISKS



Discipleship is not a spectator sport or a knowledge game. It is engaging in active living – our whole life directed by the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Father – out of obedience and love to Jesus Christ. It means following even when we don't understand or it doesn't make sense because we believe God is all-wise, in control, and always keeps His promises. (Hebrews 11:6a)

- I love God everyday with all that I am by seeking Him and following Him fully. (Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 22:37)
- I live less and less according to the old, sinful, and selfish way of worldly living and instead according to Christ's commands. (Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:5-11)
- I trust God enough to act in obedience to His leading despite doubts or fear. (Matthew 17:20, Matthew 14:28-31)
- I welcome the care and accountability of others to experience spiritual growth and fullness of life. (Hebrews 13:17)

HOW WE GROW SPIRITUALLY...

We find ourselves in the *"Sweet Spot of Spiritual Growth"* as a result of all 3 elements of the Disciple-Making Framework - **Connect**, **Grow**, & **Engage** - being part of our life.



Sweet Spot of Spiritual Growth

REMEMBER...

...this isn't about achieving a standard or checking off a list. The life of a disciple is an ongoing journey throughout all of life. It takes time. There will be progress and setbacks.

As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:12-14,

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

Use the 7 Marks tool to see how you're growing and determine next steps: FACToccoa.com/7marks

A DISCIPLE WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE?

The Practical Expressions
of the
7 Marks of a Healthy Disciple



FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH TOCCOA
connect. grow. engage. together.

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