

# “Come Follow Me”

## [Part 2]

**The third part of our calling to follow our Saviour Jesus Christ is a period of training.**

**Matthew 4:19** [NIV] *“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”*

Jesus was relating to the abilities that these fishermen had, this shows that we also have abilities that Jesus Christ desires to use.

**A disciple is a person who is willing to learn, they must have a teachable spirit.**

A disciple must be open-minded to the Holy Spirit who desires to teach them from the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

The Holy Spirit will lead us into experiences in everyday life from which we may learn and then be able to teach and encourage others.

The abilities we may have varied from one person to another, but all can be used by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:1** [Living Bible] *“And now, brothers, I want to write about **special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of you, for I don’t want any misunderstanding about them.**”*

**The misunderstanding could be envy because one person has an ability that we don’t yet wish we had, this could blind us to what we have been given by the Holy Spirit.**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11** [Living Bible] *“Now God has given us **many kinds of special abilities**, but it is the Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are **different kinds of service to God**, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through us who are His. The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give **wise advice**, someone else may be especially good at studying and **teaching**, and this is His gift from the same Spirit. He gives **special faith** to another, and to someone else the **power to heal the sick**. He gives **power for doing miracles** to some, and to others **power to prophecy and preach**. He gives someone else the **power to know** whether evil **spirits** are speaking through those who claim to be giving God’s message, or whether it is really the Spirit of God who is speaking, still another person is **able to speak in language he never learned**, and others, who do not know the language either, are given the **power to understand what He is saying**. It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.”*

**Romans 12:4-8** [Living Bible] *“Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ’s body [the Christian church]. We are all parts of it, and **it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do**. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophecy, then prophecy whenever you can, as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If you are a preacher, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it. If God has given you administrative ability and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer.”*

**Romans 12:11** [Living Bible] *“Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.”*

**As we can see there is a very wide list of abilities we can receive from the Holy Spirit.**

When we recognise our particular ability, realise that this will be part of our discipleship and we need to develop our gifts and mature in our application of them for the good of other Christians but also, as we will see, be used by the Holy Spirit to reach other non-Christians with the message of hope that we bring from the world's Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Another aspect of the training period as a disciple of Jesus Christ, is to day-by-day live our lives more like that of Jesus Christ as He walked the roads and visited the towns and villages of Palestine.

We have a record of Christ's life from four different viewpoints in the gospel writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**As a disciple of Jesus Christ we never stop learning how to reflect in our lives the very love, compassion, mercy and patience of our Master, and Teacher.**

These demands of discipleship may seem very great.

They will continue to be great while we strive to live up to them in our own strength.

The secret is to allow Jesus Christ to live in us again here on earth through the indwelling of the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit.

**John 14:15-18 [NIV]** *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

**Here is a promise made by Jesus Christ we need to claim for ourselves as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**There are certain things we need to do at the start of every day before we can confidently make the request for this promise to be fulfilled in our lives.**

**1 John 1:8-10 [NIV]** *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

**Confess our sins to God and ask for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to be a substitute for our deserved death because of our sins.**

**Romans 4:21-24 [NIV]** *“[Abraham] being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He had promised. This is why it [his faith] was credited to him as righteousness. The words, ‘It was credited to him’ were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in Him [the Holy Spirit, who is God] who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.”*

**Two things need to be noted in this passage of scripture.**

**This is the only way we can be righteous before the Holy Creator God.**

**Isaiah 64:6 [NIV]** *“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”*

**Our own righteousness is totally unacceptable to a Holy God.**

**We need the righteousness of Jesus Christ the Son of God to be credited to us.**

**Then, and only then, can we claim the promise of the indwelling Holy Spirit for that day.**

**Luke 11:13** [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

Ask God the Father, through our High Priest Jesus Christ, **to send the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.**

The last three words in the above statement *“and through us”* leads us into the fourth aspect of our discipleship.

**The Holy Spirit in us can never be stagnant.**

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

**The gifts that we have received from God are not intended to be used only in the Christian fellowship but to be used to reach and change the lives of non-Christians.**

**Matthew 28:18-20** [NIV] *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**As trained and empowered disciples of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is urging us to reach out to non-Christians, so that He, through us can lead them into discipleship of Jesus Christ.**

We are to be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit for others, whom we come in contact with, to be called to follow Jesus Christ just as we have experienced that calling.

How are we to do this?

To help you do this we have on this two articles, both under sub-heading ‘*Evangelism.*’

‘*Personal Evangelism*’ and ‘*Sharing Christ.*’

**Discipleship sums up Christ’s plan for all of humanity.**

Yet for all its brilliant simplicity, it is the one approach that most western Christians and Christian churches have neglected.

**Would you now call yourself a disciple of Jesus Christ?**

**Or are you only a “believer?”**

Jesus’ call is **not** just to come to Him for personal salvation by believing in what He has done for all humanity.

As believers we are expected to submit to Him and follow Him as our Lord and Master.

To say “yes” to this call will take you on the most wonderful and fulfilling journey with Jesus that will last for the rest of your life.

Are you prepared for that exciting journey?