

REWARDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

A question comes to mind. How many back off from fully becoming and qualifying as a disciple of Christ? How many feel it is too demanding, that it requires too much of them? It would probably be safe to say the answer would be many. If one is truly sincere and desiring all they can have of a life in Jesus Christ, there is nothing that should hinder us from pursuing that and "pressing in."

There are rewards to a life of discipleship. However, that should not be our motive for being a disciple. They are a blessing we can experience as we are consistently faithful. Our real motivation should be that desire for an intimate relationship with Jesus and to follow Him wherever He desires to take us.



To gain a full understanding of our calling to be a disciple, let's see what the Word says about the rewards.

1. **WE ARE ACKNOWLEDGED BY CHRIST:** Matthew 12:49,50

Jesus let it be known that all who follow Him in the character of a learner, those are the ones He called a disciple. Whoever chooses to enter this circle becomes His brother, sister, mother (family) as these verses state.

2. **WE ARE ENLIGHTENED BY CHRIST:** John 8:12

Jesus spoke about being the Light of the world during the Feast of Tabernacles. This was a time when the large lamps were burning as a reminder to the Israelites how God faithfully led them in the wilderness with the pillar of fire.

Light (in the Bible) is a symbol of God and His holiness (Acts 9:3; 1 John 1:5). If we are following Jesus, He will light our path and show us how we too are to walk that path of holiness. He will give light to our lives in the areas that need to be sanctified. We don't have to stumble around. We will not have to live in the realm of evil and ignorance for He is the Light to show us.

3. **WE ARE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT:** John 16:13

He will guide us in all truth and assist us with the ability to discern right from wrong. He will teach us. He will give us insights and understanding that may be difficult to us. The phrase "things to come" in this verse, the meaning is not, He

will show you some things to come, but the things that are to come, or the things that are coming. These things are whatsoever He shall hear.

4. WE ARE HONORED BY THE FATHER: John 12:26

Jesus makes it clear as to who is honored by the Father. It is those who are fulfilling the requirements to be called a disciple.

- a. One who continues to follow Him consistently.
- b. One who conforms wholly to His example in living and if need be, in dying.

That word "follow" means to imitate Him; do what He does, love what He loves, hate what He hates, take on His very nature and character.

5. HE CONFIDES IN HIS DISCIPLES: Psalm 25:14

If we are true disciples of the Lord Jesus, we will be walking in the "fear of the Lord" (which is reverence for Him, honoring Him, walking in total obedience). His word is to those who hold Him in highest honor. He confides/reveals His secrets to them. Examples of this are Abraham and Moses.

One of the greatest rewards in discipling others to be disciples are to see them growing and being conformed to the image of Christ. That is what it is all about and that is what brings honor and glory to the One we serve. That is advancing His Kingdom. No matter what the Master asks of us, we should do it heartily. "Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord - you serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 2:23,24 HCSB)



**CHOOSE THE LIFE!!
GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES!**