**“The Spectrum of Discipleship”**

Part 3

“Discipleship of old/mature Believers: One-on-one”

(Ephesians 4:16)

Big Idea: God wants us to continue to grow spiritually closer to Christ as Christ builds His church on earth.

**What is going on with the Church and its members?**

* **Danger will arise in the local church.** (1 Timothy 4:1)
* **Paul’s answer to the warning.** (1 Timothy 4:6, 11, 13, 16)
* **Paul encourages the Ephesus local church pastors with his own example.** (Acts 20:27, 28)

**\*** God’s Word, in its entirety, is the central instructional component for the local church and its members.

**How is the church and its members getting built?**

* **The Architect and Builder of the church** (Matthew 16:16, 18; 1 Peter 2:6-8)
* **The Architect’s and Builder’s role in the church** (Ephesians 4:8-16)
  + **Jesus has the position of supreme authority from which He builds His church because of His incarnation, passion, resurrection, and ascension.** (Eph 4:8-10)
  + **Jesus gave people to the church for equipping and edifying the saints for the work of the ministry.** (Ephesians 4:11, 12)
  + **Jesus sets the goal of this equipping and edification as maturing into the likeness of Christ and speaking the truth against false trickery of men** (Ephesians 4:13-15)
  + **The learned and mature members of the local church who are equipped for ministry will initiate further growth of fellow believers.** (Ephesians 4:16)
* **The church cannot prevail against Hades** (Matt. 16:18) **when individual believers are passive.** (1 Peter 5:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13)
* **The local church is made up of regenerated people who are developing spiritually.** (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22)
* **The primary tool that Christ uses to build his church is His Word of Truth.** (Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
* **The church’s building progress will be evaluated by the Architect.**   
  (1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11)
* **Mature believers are needed to teach others with the aid of the Holy Spirit.** (James 3:1; John 14:16, 17; 15:26, 27; 16:5-11; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16)

**SUMMARY:**

* **Christ is the head.**
* **We must be alert to false models of faith and practice.**
* **We focus on building people’s spiritual lives.**
* **The Bible is the primary tool for building and maturing.**
* **Christ will inspect the building of His church.**
* **We rely on the aid of the Holy Spirit to mentor and build the church.**

**APPLICATION:**

* **What “Blueprint” should discipleship and mentoring follow for “old/mature” believers to “BUILD UP” Christ’s church?**
  + **B**
  + **U**
  + **I**
  + **L**
  + **D**
  + **U**
  + **P**

**How to Disciple others**

**1. Develop a habit of prayer.**

**2. Seek to understand God’s Word and develop obedience.**

**3. Start investing in the people God has around you now.**

**4. Ask people you share an interest in or someone you think shows a strength in Christian character.**

**5. Get to know each other and study God’s Word to grow and walk in the truth or study a topic related to a weakness of Christian character.**

**6. Do life together.**

**How can we individually serve as mature believers the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love** (Eph. 4:16)**?**