

# Session #15: Seven Traits of Highly Effective Disciple Makers (Part 1)

Watch!

Link to video: <https://youtu.be/NNCdqOYqZSk>

Study!

## Scriptural Focus: Matthew 28:18–20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18–20)

## Structural Framework

There is an urgent need today to recapture our calling amid competing compulsions and the systems of the world that pull us away from Christ's mandate—to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. This Great Commandment must be the compass that keeps our lives orientated towards God's ordained purpose for us.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Apostle Paul says:

4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (1 Thessalonians 1:4–7)

Despite all obstacles, Paul gave his life for discipleship. Notice the progression here. Paul spent time discipling others, investing his life to help them reach spiritual maturity. Then as people "imitated" him, they became examples for other believers to follow.

Like Paul, we too are called to be an authentic disciple. We are called to walk with Jesus and grow deep in Him. And then to be an intentional disciple maker of others—to work with Jesus and to help others grow in Him.

What makes an effective disciple maker? Over the next two lessons, we will study seven traits of an effective disciple maker. In this lesson, we will examine the first two traits and continue on with the remaining five in the next.

### **Trait #1: Holy Spirit-Filled**

A disciple maker must first be filled with the Holy Spirit. We cannot do the work of God in our own strength. We must be empowered and directed by the Spirit. Notice how the early church appointed those who were full of the Spirit, and faith, in the passage below:

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.  
(Acts 6:3-5)

We cannot do God's work in our own flesh. We must listen and be sensitive to what God wants to do through us.

"Every day can be an exciting adventure for the Christian who knows the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and who lives constantly, moment by moment, under His gracious direction."  
- Bill Bright

Furthermore, Paul says that walking in step with the Spirit also protects us against our fleshly desires:

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)

No matter what earthly troubles come our way, as long as we are walking in the Spirit of God we will be empowered to overcome them. How do we become filled with the Spirit? It starts by emptying ourselves and being available for God. This was D.L. Moody's conviction:

"I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will come and fill every corner of our hearts."  
- D. L. Moody

Lastly, Scripture reminds us:

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

Being Holy Spirit-filled is about allowing God to control our lives. When people become intoxicated with alcohol, they lose control of themselves. Instead of being drunk with wine, the bible says to be filled with the Spirit. In other words, the Holy Spirit is to be the one who takes control of us.

The reality is, we cannot force the Holy Spirit to fill us. It is not something we can manufacture by ourselves; it is something we obtain by being obedient to His will.

"I can't have more of the Spirit, but the Holy Spirit can have more of me"

- Rev. Paul Jeyachandran

### **Trait #2: Holiness**

When you live a Holy Spirit-filled life, it leads to holiness. We end up living a life set apart for God in Christ-likeness. There are two things to note regarding holiness:

- Positional holiness—This refers to the justification we receive by faith in Christ Jesus.
- Conditional holiness—This refers to our practical transformation towards Christ-likeness as a result of following Jesus.

Apostle Peter says:

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy. (1 Peter 1:14-16)

We must pay attention to our conduct. When you know you are set apart for a **Purpose** and for a **Person**, it will impact everything you do. Holiness is not about maintaining external appearances of piety, but about living a life dedicated to God, to be used by Him for His glory and Kingdom. When we surrender our lives to God, we are also set apart for Him.

"Holiness is the everyday business of every Christian. It evidences itself in the decisions we make and the things we do, hour by hour, day by day."

- Chuck Colson

According to Chuck Colson, holiness is part of everything we do. It should influence our decisions and values, and it should help us arrange our priorities. Our core purpose is to live a life that's pleasing to our Master.

21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. 22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2 Timothy 2:21-22)

The bible calls us to flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness. We must let go of the things that hold us back and make ourselves ready for every good work.

## Reflect!

What are some key insights that I can take away from today's session?

What are some things that prevent me from fully dedicating myself to God?

## Discuss!

Q1: How do you see the Holy Spirit helping you live the Christian life? What are some specific ways He helps you?

Q2: The Holy Spirit is our "daily guide" for God's will in our lives. Why do you think people tend to ignore or neglect the Holy Spirit?

Q3: Why is it so important that leaders (and disciple makers) stay filled with the Holy Spirit? How can we become more open to His guidance and teaching?

Q4: What is the difference between positional holiness and conditional holiness?

Q5: Do you think holiness (living a life that pleases God) is possible? Why or why not?

Q6: Read 2 Timothy 2:21–22. What key principles do we see here pertaining to holiness?

Q7: Part of pursuing holiness is to flee earthly passions. Name one thing you'd like to remove from your life with the Holy Spirit's help.

Q8: How would you like to be kept accountable with your learnings from this session?

## Between Sessions

### Challenge!

Over the next week, reflect on this lesson and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas of your inner life that you may be struggling with. It could be an issue with temptation, addiction or sin. Sometimes, we live with our problems for so long, instead of dealing with them, we become complacent. We forget that we are to pursue righteousness in every aspect of life. If you have identified something that you'd like to change, write down practical steps into an action plan with a set timeframe. This plan could include reading more books, seeking a mentor, or listening to more podcasts. Be intentional in how you plan to overcome your sin, but most importantly, do this together with the Holy Spirit and invite Him to come into your life as you take this challenge.

## Memorise!

Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (Acts 6:3)