

Advancing God's Kingdom Through the Pattern of Discipleship Conclusion Part 15

Advancing God's Kingdom requires a structured and intentional approach rooted in biblical principles.

This conclusion of the series explores a pattern for discipleship and ministry, emphasizing preparation, training, effective evangelism, effective ministry and character.

By following **this pattern**, believers can grow in their faith, effectively minister to others, and fulfill their calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Preparation and Training

The process of discipleship begins with personal commitment and extends to equipping others to follow Christ. The following steps outline the foundational elements of this pattern:

A. Becoming a Practicing Disciple of Jesus Christ

The journey starts with a personal decision to actively follow Jesus. This involves daily surrender, obedience to His teachings, and cultivating a relationship with Him. A disciple is called to make other disciples (**Matthew 28:19-20**). This involves mentoring and guiding others in their faith journey.

B. Baptism in Water

Baptism by full immersion is an **outward** expression of an **inward** transformation, and the believer's new life in Christ.

C. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Jesus is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit, empowering believers with spiritual gifts and boldness for ministry.

D. Prayer Language (Tongues)

A distinct prayer language enables believers to communicate with God on a deeper level, facilitating spiritual growth and empowerment.

E. Teaching the Word of God

Accurate and **effective** teaching of Scripture equips disciples to rightly divide the Word of truth and live according to God's principles.

Effective Evangelism

Once disciples are **prepared** and **trained**, they are sent out to advance God's Kingdom through various means:

F. Going Forward in Faith

Disciples are called to step out in faith, trusting God's guidance and provision as they fulfill their mission.

G. Preaching the Gospel

The message of Jesus Christ must be shared boldly and uncompromisingly, emphasizing salvation, grace, and truth.

H. Doing the Works of Jesus

Disciples are empowered to continue the works of Jesus—healing, serving, and demonstrating His love in practical ways.

Effective Ministry

I. Meeting Needs Through Spiritual Gifts “The 3 M’s”

Each believer is uniquely gifted with **m**otivational, **m**inistry, and **m**anifestation gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts enable them to address the spiritual, practical, mental, personal, supportive, effective, and the emotional needs of others.

Proven character

J. Exemplifying the Character of Christ

The moral excellence of Jesus should be evident in every disciple's life. This includes humility, integrity, compassion, and selflessness.

The Spiritual Significance of Following a Pattern

Patterns are an integral part of life, providing structure, guidance, and consistency in various aspects of our existence.

From the intricate designs in nature to the frameworks, we follow in our personal and spiritual journeys, patterns serve as a blueprint for growth and fulfillment.

In this section, we will explore the spiritual significance of following a pattern, using the analogy of creating something from a **fabric pattern** and how this process can reflect our journey in advancing God's kingdom.

The Foundation: Decision to Follow the Pattern

Every creation begins with a decision. In the context of our spiritual lives, this decision is a deliberate choice to advance God's kingdom by aligning ourselves with His divine plan.

Just as one must choose a specific fabric pattern to create a garment, we must consciously decide to follow God's "Pattern" for our lives. This decision sets the stage for everything that follows and reflects our commitment to live with purpose and intention.

The Package: Our Bodies as His Temple

The package represents the vessel through which the pattern is brought to life. In spiritual terms, this is our physical body, which serves as God's temple.

It is through our actions, thoughts, and choices that we manifest His will on earth. Recognizing the sanctity of our bodies reminds us to care for them, ensuring they are prepared and equipped to fulfill the purpose God has set before us.

Living Out the Pattern

To advance the Kingdom effectively, disciples must embody five key principles:

1. Preparation and Training

Becoming a disciple is only the beginning. Like an athlete training for a race, believers must continually grow through study, prayer, and mentorship.

2. Faith in Action

Faith is essential for stepping out into ministry. It is through faith that believers preach the gospel, perform acts of service, and trust God for outcomes.

3. Proclaiming the Gospel

The core message of salvation through Jesus must remain central in all ministry efforts. It is not our works but His work on the cross that transforms lives.

4. Involvement in People's Lives

Ministry requires active engagement with others. Meeting people where they are—emotionally, spiritually, and physically—is key to making an impact.

5. Christlike Character

The character of Jesus is the foundation upon which all ministry is built. Demonstrating His love, patience, humility, and truth solidifies our witness to the world.

Practical Application: Following the Pattern

To integrate this pattern into daily life and ministry:

1. Recognize that advancing God's Kingdom requires intentionality with Holy Spirit **persuasive** methods to avoid contentiousness.
2. Embrace **flexibility** and **self-control** when adapting to God's leading.
3. Cultivate **enthusiasm** for God's work, avoiding apathy or complacency.
4. Demonstrate **tolerance** and **sensitivity** towards others at different stages of their faith journey.
5. Strive for **orderliness** in your spiritual walk by removing confusion or distractions.
6. Use tools such as Scripture, prayer, spiritual gifts, and effective discipleship programs to grow personally and help others.
7. Continuously review these principles to ensure alignment with God's pattern.

Conclusion

The process of advancing God's Kingdom is not passive but requires active participation in a divinely inspired pattern of discipleship.

By committing to personal growth, equipping others, and embodying Christlike character, believers can navigate against the current of worldly influences and fulfill their calling with excellence.

As **Revelation 21:6** reminds us: "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Jesus is both our starting point and our destination in this journey of faith.

Let us follow **His example** as we seek to make disciples and advance His Kingdom on Earth.

The Pattern: A Divine Blueprint

The pattern itself serves as a guide, model, or standard for what we aim to create. Spiritually, this pattern is God's word—a divine blueprint that provides direction and clarity.

It offers examples, teachings, and principles that help us navigate life's complexities. Just as a **fabric** pattern outlines the steps needed to create a specific design, God's word outlines how we can live a life that reflects His love, grace, and purpose.

The Material: Our Inner Nature and Resources

The material represents the raw components needed to bring the pattern to life. In our spiritual journey, this material includes our inner nature—our spirit and soul—along with external resources such as the Bible, faith, teachings, gifts, abilities, and talents.

These elements are what God has given us to work with, and it is our responsibility to use them wisely.

Just as a seamstress selects the right fabric for her project, we must recognize and cultivate the resources God has entrusted to us.

The Tools: Instruments of Growth

No creation can take shape without tools. Spiritually, these tools include the Bible, study materials, technology, and other resources that aid in our understanding and application of God's word.

These instruments help us refine our skills, deepen our knowledge, and stay connected to His teachings. They are essential for shaping our lives according to His pattern.

Development: The Process of Growth

The development stage is where everything begins to come together. It requires wisdom, understanding, knowledge, love, discernment, and patience.

This phase mirrors the process of sanctification in our spiritual lives—a gradual transformation that occurs over time as we gather insights, learn from experiences, and creatively apply what we have learned.

Just as a garment takes shape through careful stitching and assembly, our lives take shape through intentional growth and alignment with God's will.

Fulfillment: Completing the Pattern

Fulfillment is the culmination of our efforts—the moment when the pattern is fully realized. In spiritual terms, this means striving for complete manifestation of God's purpose in our lives.

It involves being thorough in our preparation and training so we can fulfill the tasks He has set before us.

Just as a completed garment reflects the skill and dedication of its maker, a life lived according to God's pattern reflects His glory and love.

Application: Putting It All to Use

A finished garment is meant to be worn, not left unused. Similarly, our spiritual growth is not meant to remain theoretical or hidden.

Application is about putting everything we have learned and developed into action to advance God's kingdom.

This involves serving others, sharing His message, and living out His principles in our daily lives. True fulfillment comes when we actively use what we have created to make a positive impact in the world.

Maintenance: Sustaining Growth

Finally, just as a garment requires care and maintenance to remain functional and beautiful, our spiritual lives require ongoing attention.

Maintenance involves staying alert to potential dangers that could hinder our growth—such as complacency, distractions, or negative influences—and taking steps to address them.

It also means continually nurturing our relationship with God through prayer, study, and fellowship. By doing so, we ensure that we remain aligned with His pattern and ready to fulfill His purpose.

Conclusion

The **process** of following a pattern—whether in crafting a garment or shaping our spiritual lives—is both an art and a discipline.

It requires intentionality, effort, and perseverance. By viewing our spiritual journey through this lens, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the resources God has provided us and the transformative power of **His divine blueprint**.

As you reflect on your own life, consider how you can more fully embrace God's pattern. Are you using your material—your gifts, abilities, and faith—to its fullest potential?

Are you equipping yourself with the right tools and dedicating time to your development?

Are you actively applying what you have learned to advance His kingdom?

By answering these questions and committing to follow **His pattern**, you can experience the joy and fulfillment of living a life that truly reflects His purpose.

The Analogy of the Rowboat

To better understand this pattern, imagine a believer as a rowboat navigating against the current of the world's system—a river flowing with temptations, sin, and worldly values. The tools provided by God enable the believer to move forward despite resistance:

Decisiveness must be in this analogy.

1. Rowboat with paddles (Salvation)

Salvation equips believers to begin their journey against the current, but it requires effort and perseverance.

2. Sails (Water Baptism)

Baptism provides additional momentum, symbolizing a public declaration of faith and commitment to Christ.

3. Motor (Baptism in the Holy Spirit)

The Holy Spirit empowers believers with supernatural strength to overcome obstacles and move forward with greater ease.

4. Gas (Prayer Language)

Praying in tongues fuels spiritual growth and activates the power of the Holy Spirit within.

5. Navigation (Teaching from God's Word)

Proper understanding of Scripture serves as a guide for navigating life's challenges and fulfilling God's purpose. All disciples need to be teachable, willing, obedient with desire and power to do God's will.

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