

Living the Pattern: Go, Preach, and Do the Works of Jesus

Part 13

The Christian journey is one of transformation, growth, and purpose. As followers of Jesus Christ, believers are called not only to embrace His teachings but to actively live them out.

In this exploration of "The Pattern," we examine the essential steps that equip disciples to fulfill their divine calling: to go, preach the gospel, and do the works of Jesus.

By understanding and applying this framework, believers can live authentically and effectively, advancing God's kingdom with purpose and power.

Foundations for Living as a Disciple

A fruitful life in Christ begins with a strong foundation. **The initial steps in "The Pattern"** establish the groundwork for spiritual growth and maturity:

- 1. Practicing Discipleship:** Discipleship is an active commitment to follow Jesus, encompassing faith, obedience, repentance, and confession. It is not a passive belief but a lifestyle of living out Christ's teachings daily. This step requires intentionality and **a heart fully surrendered to God**.
- 2. Water Baptism:** Baptism is a pivotal moment in a believer's spiritual journey, symbolizing their union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (**Romans 6:3-4**). It is a public declaration of faith and signifies entry into God's covenant family (**Colossians 2:11-12**). This act of obedience solidifies one's identity as a child of God.
- 3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** Empowerment through the Holy Spirit equips believers with "dunamis"—miraculous power (**Acts 1:8**). This baptism provides spiritual strength and enables supernatural communication with God, preparing believers to fulfill their calling with boldness.
- 4. Speaking in Tongues:** Speaking in tongues is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's presence (**Acts 2:4**). It serves as both evidence of this baptism and a divine means of communication with God. This spiritual gift enhances prayer life and fosters deeper intimacy with Him.
- 5. Accurate Teaching of Scripture:** Proper teaching is essential for spiritual maturity. Jesus commanded His disciples to teach others to obey His commands (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Understanding Scripture equips believers to discern truth, live faithfully, and share the gospel effectively.

These foundational steps are not merely rituals or traditions; they are **transformative experiences** that prepare disciples for **the greater works Christ** has called them to accomplish.

Advancing in "The Pattern"

Once the foundation is established, believers are called to move forward into action. The next three steps in "The Pattern," as outlined in **Mark 16:15-20**, guide disciples in fulfilling their mission:

- 1. Go:** Jesus commissioned His followers to go into all the world and share the good news with all creation. This step requires intentional movement—both physically and spiritually—toward those who need to hear the gospel. A true disciple is compelled by love and conviction to bring the message of salvation to others.
- 2. Preach the Gospel:** The gospel is the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is the good news that offers hope, redemption, and eternal life. Preaching the gospel involves sharing these truths with clarity and boldness, ensuring that what is communicated aligns with Scripture. Without a firm grasp of foundational teachings, it becomes difficult to deliver an uncompromising message that reflects God's truth.
- 3. Do the Works of Jesus:** Jesus declared that His followers would do the works He did—and even greater works (**John 14:12-14**). These works include healing the sick, casting out demons, and demonstrating God's love through action. Importantly, these acts are not for self-glorification but for advancing God's kingdom and bringing glory to Him.

The Interconnected Framework

Each step in "The Pattern" builds upon the previous one, creating an interconnected framework for spiritual growth and ministry effectiveness. **For example:**

- A disciple who actively practices their faith gains the conviction and urgency to go forth and share the gospel.
- Water baptism solidifies a believer's identity in Christ, empowering them to confidently proclaim their faith.
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit provides supernatural power and boldness, enabling disciples to preach with authority.
- Speaking in tongues enhances communication with God, offering divine wisdom and guidance as believers carry out their mission.
- Accurate teaching ensures that the message preached is biblically sound and impactful.

Neglecting any part of "The Pattern" can hinder a believer's ability to fulfill their calling effectively.

A non-practicing disciple may lack the motivation to share the gospel; without water baptism, one may struggle with embracing their new identity; without empowerment by the Holy Spirit, boldness may be absent; and poor teaching can lead to an ineffective or distorted message.

Self-Examination and Alignment

As followers of Christ, it is vital to regularly examine our lives in light of "The Pattern." **Acts 17:11** encourages believers to diligently study Scripture to confirm its truth. This practice safeguards against false teachings or incomplete understandings that may hinder spiritual growth.

Teaching holds particular importance within this framework. What we are taught shapes our beliefs, which influence our words and actions (**Luke 6:45; James 3:1-5**).

Accurate teaching is not merely an intellectual exercise but a transformative process that equips us for **effective ministry**.

Moving Forward with Purpose

"The Pattern" offers a **clear roadmap** for believers who desire to live out their faith authentically.

The first five steps—practicing discipleship, water baptism, baptism in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, and accurate teaching—serve as a foundation for spiritual growth.

These prepare disciples to advance into action by going into the world, preaching the gospel, and doing the works of Jesus.

Living out "The Pattern" requires humility, faith, and obedience. It calls believers to align their lives with God's will and position themselves as vessels through which His power flows.

This journey is not about personal achievement or recognition but about faithfully carrying out God's mission.

As we go forth, let us remember that our efforts must be rooted in faithfulness rather than programs or numbers.

By adhering to "The Pattern," we ensure that our work reflects God's truth and brings glory to Him.

In conclusion, "The Pattern" provides a dynamic framework for spiritual growth and effective ministry.

It equips believers to move beyond passive belief into active discipleship—going into the world, preaching an uncompromising gospel, and demonstrating God's love through action.

Let us embrace this divine pattern wholeheartedly, striving to embody it in every aspect of our lives and ministry. In doing so, we advance His kingdom on earth while bringing hope and transformation to those around us.

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