

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one characteristic of a disciple of Jesus Christ and then memorise it together. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. In this second series God teaches that there are 5 things that characterize the life of a new Christian: Christ, the Bible, prayer, fellowship with other Christians and witnessing. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: A DISCIPLE MEETS WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is 1 John 1:7. We will ask one another questions in order to help us to meditate on the truths written in the Bible. Let me read 1 John 1:5-7.

1 John 1:5-7. "God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

The memorisation verse is: Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7.

(Question) What is the light?

(T) The word "light" is *life manifested or made visible*. "Life" is a term describing the fullness of God's essence. "Life" is God's glorious attributes, like his holiness, his righteousness, his truth, his wisdom, his love, his omnipotence, his sovereignty, etc. When God's "life" or attributes are revealed and made manifest, then it is described as his "light". Light is God's characteristics made visible. Jesus Christ made God's characteristics visible. Followers of Jesus Christ are called to walk in the light, that is, to behave themselves according to the characteristics of God.

(Question) Why do you think that God, Christ as well as Christians are called "light"?

(S) In 1 John 1:5 God is called "light", because he is the Source of all physical life and spiritual life. He created all the physical life that we know in the universe. He gave us new spiritual life through the death and resurrection of Christ.

In 1 John 8:12 Jesus Christ is called "the light of the world", because he reveals to us who God is, especially God's attributes or characteristics. God's glorious characteristics shine most brilliantly through Jesus Christ in the midst of the world. Jesus proclaims knowledge to ignorant people; he proclaims truth to the erring people and he proclaims wisdom to the foolish people. He reveals holiness to the impure people; he reveals righteousness to the wicked people and he reveals love to those filled with hatred. He shows gladness to those who are sad; he gives encouragement to those who are fearful and he shows God's presence and nearness to those who are lonely and abandoned.

In Matthew 5:14 Jesus calls the Christians "the light of the world". Christians are never the light by themselves, but they can reflect God's characteristics to the world, especially his holiness, righteousness and love (Ephesians 5:8).

(Question) What is the meaning of the word 'Christian fellowship'?

(T) The word "fellowship" means a close relationship, association and partnership.

First. Christian fellowship involves a close relationship and partnership with the Triune God. 1 John 1:3 says, "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." And 2 Corinthians 13:14 says, "May the ... the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Christians cultivate a personal and close relationship with the Living God, who revealed himself in the Bible as God the Father, as God the Son and as God the Holy Spirit. Philippians 3:10 says that Christians also have a fellowship that consists of sharing the sufferings of Jesus Christ. The close relationship with Jesus Christ makes all Christians partners in his blessings and in his sufferings.

Second. Christian fellowship involves a close relationship and partnership with other Christians. 1 John 1:3 also says, "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us".

Christians also cultivate close relationships with other Christians all over the world. All the Christians in the world are one big family. They have one Father in heaven and are brothers and sisters of one another. Hebrews 10:33-34 says that Christians stand side by side with other Christians in the world that are insulted and persecuted. Christians are partners when they are persecuted and when their property is confiscated. Christians

are also partners in sharing their wealth and possessions with one another (2 Corinthians 8:4). And Christians are partners in sharing mercy and forgiveness with one another (Philemon 6).

The close relationship with other Christians makes all Christians partners in their blessings and in their sufferings.

Third. Christian fellowship consists of doing important things together. Christians devote themselves to the teachings of the Bible and prayer. They have meetings together and they eat together. They help one another in areas of need and they share the good news with others (Acts 2:42-47). The quality of Christian fellowship is determined by the devotion of Christians to the Bible and to prayer, to how they share their lives and their possessions together, and to how they walk in righteousness and in the light.

Fourth. Christian fellowship is only possible with other Christians and not possible with unbelievers. In 1 John 1:7 we read, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." Christian fellowship is only possible among Christians who walk in the light of God. In 2 Corinthians 6:14 we read, "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" From this verse it becomes very clear that Christian fellowship is not possible with unbelievers and with people who live in wickedness or in darkness. Fellowship is only possible with true believers, who live in righteousness and in the light. Close relationships with God and other Christians is only possible among Christians who truly believe in Jesus Christ and do what is right in his eyes.

(Question) The word "walk" is very important in the Bible. It is translated either as "to walk" or "to live" and refers to the behaviour of the Christian. What does the Bible teach about "walking" or "living"?

(S) First. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk worthy of God. In Ephesians 4:1 we read, "I urge you to live a life (lit. walk) worthy of the calling you have received." Christians must behave as God teaches them in Jesus Christ in the Bible. They must especially conduct their lives in holiness and in love.

Second. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in love. In Ephesians 5:2 we read, "Live a life of (lit. walk in) love, just as Christ loved us." Thus, Christians must behave as Jesus Christ behaved and would have behaved in their situation. The Christian walk or life is distinctly Christlike!

Third. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in wisdom. In Ephesians 5:15-16 we read, "Be very careful how you live (lit. walk) - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." Thus, Christians must exercise wisdom in every situation of their life. This means, they must apply the best means to the highest goals in life or use every opportunity to further God's kingdom in this world.

Fourth. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk decently. In Romans 13:13-14 we read, "Let us behave (lit. walk) decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." "Orgies" are excessive feasting, accompanied by excessive eating and drinking, wild dancing and singing and generally licentious revelry. Orgies are riotous merry-making where the accepted rules of behaviour are disregarded. "Debauchery" is sensual indulgence, seduction, perversion of virtue and morality and in short indecent behaviour. Thus, Christians must not participate in the wild parties or excessive banquets, which is common among the non-Christians.

Fifth. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in a way that pleases God and wins the respect of outsiders. In 1 Thessalonians 4:1 and 12 we read, "Brothers, we instructed you how to live (lit. walk) in order to please God. ... Work with your hands, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders." Christians must work for their own income and not become a parasite on other Christians or on society. The work and behaviour of Christians must win the respect of outsiders and please God.

Sixth. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in truth. In 3 John 3 we read, "... Continue to walk in the truth." Christian behaviour should not primarily be determined by one's culture, but by the truth in the Bible. Christians should live according to the truth revealed in the Bible and always speak the truth.

Seventh. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:16 we read, "Live (lit. walk) by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Christians must allow the Holy Spirit to guide and control their lives and daily behaviour. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for Christians to live according to the truth and to please God.

Eighth. The Bible teaches that Christians should walk in good works. In Ephesians 2:10 we read, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (lit. to walk in)." Christians should especially commit themselves to do those good works that God has revealed in the Bible.

(Question) The blood of Jesus Christ always restores a broken fellowship. What is the meaning of the words "the blood of Jesus Christ"?

(T) "The blood of Jesus Christ" is not a magical substance that has a special kind of power. The Christian faith renounces sorcery. The "blood of Jesus" refers to the blood that was shed on the cross. It is a symbolical phrase referring to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross as well as the resulting blessings of his death for the believer. One result of his death in the place of Christians is *forgiveness*. Because we Christians are not yet

perfect and still fall into sin, we need cleansing. When we sin or when we walk in the darkness, then our fellowship with God and with other Christians is broken. However, when we confess our sins to God, he forgives us again and again, because Christ already received the punishment for our sins.

(S) POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE

The method of memorising a new Bible verse has four steps:

Step 1. Meditate and understand the Bible verse before you memorise it.

Step 2. Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. Write topic at the top. The topic today is “Fellowship”. Beneath that, write the Bible reference of the verse. The Bible reference today is 1 John 1:7. And beneath that, write the whole verse.

Step 3. Memorise the verse in the right way. Always start with the name of the topic, the Bible reference and the first line of the verse. It is a good practice to learn the Bible reference twice, first at the beginning of the verse and then at the end of the verse.

Step 4. Review the new Bible verses every day for five weeks. And review the old Bible verses at least once every three weeks.

(T) Let us memorise the Bible verse together. Then let us take turns to say that part of the verse alone without looking at the Bible or notebook.

(T+S) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

(S) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

(T+S) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.

(T) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7.

(S) Why is it important to memorise Bible verses without one mistake?

(T) Because it is very hard to unlearn mistakes that you have memorised. Moreover, it is much easier to memorise and review, to recall and use Bible verses when you have memorised them without one mistake.

(T) POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

The series “Christian assurances”, verses 4-5 and the series “the new life”, verses 1-3.

(S) Assurance of forgiveness. 1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9.

(T) Assurance of God’s guidance. Proverbs 3:5-6. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6.

(S) Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17.

(T) Word. Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ “ Matthew 4:4.

(S) Prayer. John 15:7. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. John 15:7.

(S) POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and make disciples” and Internet on www etc.

Third. Listen on short wave radio every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to “Discipleship training on the air”.