

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times.

Today's topic is: A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM 1 JOHN 1-5.

(S) **POINT 2. SHARING FROM 1 JOHN 1-5**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from 1 John 1-5. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

Sharing quiet times from 1 John chapter 1.

(T) I want to share from 1 John 1:5-7 about **true Christian fellowship**.

1 John 1:5-7 says, "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." These three verses teach that Christian fellowship means *walking in the light*.

First. What is the meaning of light?

In the Bible, the word *light* means "life manifested or made visible". And the word *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 and his sovereignty. Thus, 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.

Second. Who are called light in the Bible?

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

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

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

Third. How can Christian fellowship be described as "walking in the light"?

The word *walk* in the Bible means *to walk, to live or to behave*. It refers to the Christian's behaviour in the world.

Ephesians 5:2 teaches that a Christian must "walk in love, just as Christ loved him." I should behave in the same way as Christ behaved in his situation or as Christ would have behaved in my situation. Christian behaviour should be distinctly Christlike! Ephesians 5:15-16 teaches that a Christian should "be very careful how he walks - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." I should exercise wisdom in every situation of my life. I should apply the best means to the highest goals in my life or use every opportunity to further God's kingdom in this world. Thus, when verse 7 teaches that I should "walk in the light as God is in the light", then I should reflect the characteristics of God, like his holiness, righteousness and love, in my daily life and relationships.

Sharing quiet times from 1 John chapter 2.

(S) I would like to share from 1 John 2:20-27 about **the anointing by the Holy Spirit**. According to this passage, all Christians have received *the anointing* from the Holy Spirit.

First. This anointing remains in the Christians.

When Jesus was still on earth, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with the Christians and dwell in them for ever. On the Day of Pentecost, he poured out the Holy Spirit on Christians. From that time on throughout the New Testament period, the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians. This indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and lives of Christians is called *the anointing*. Does every Christian receive this anointing? Ephesians 1:13 teaches that every person who heard the gospel of salvation and believed in Jesus Christ, is marked in Christ with the seal, which is the promised Holy Spirit. And Romans 8:9-10 teaches that it is impossible to be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in your heart and life. Therefore, everyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives the Holy Spirit, that is, receives the

anointing by the Holy Spirit immediately at the time he believes. During the Old Testament period, the Holy Spirit is said to come at certain times upon God's people, like for example the prophets. Also during the Old Testament period, the Holy Spirit did not dwell permanently in a believer, for example king Saul. But during the New Testament period, the Holy Spirit remains in every Christian permanently.

Second. This anointing is real, not counterfeit.

1 John 2:26 says that the false teachers and false prophets are trying very hard to lead the Christians astray. These false teachers and false prophets are called *antichrists*, because their speaking and their actions are against Jesus Christ and against the Christians. False teachers and false prophets are especially characterised by denying that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed Mediator whom God had promised throughout the Old Testament that he would be the Saviour of the world. In the time of the Bible, these antichrists were first of all certain Jews like the Pharisees and Sadducees, who vehemently denied that the Jesus they heard and saw was the Messiah. But later, these antichrists were also many Gentiles, like the Gnostics and other cults, who vehemently denied that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. Today, there are still very many false teachers and false prophets, who deny that the Jesus of the Bible is the only Saviour of the world. The Bible calls all such people the antichrists. All such people are liars and counterfeits. They pretend to speak important truths, but their wisdom does not save anyone from his sin and does not change anyone to become Christ-like. However, every person who believes in Jesus Christ receives the Holy Spirit. All Christians who have the Holy Spirit living in their hearts and lives are real and not counterfeit. All such Christians will also know the truth and speak the truth.

Third. This anointing teaches Christians the truth about all things.

In this passage the singular is never used, but only the plural. Therefore a Christian may not interpret verse 27 to mean that he has received the anointing and therefore does not need any other Christian to teach him about all things! *The Bible does not promise an individual Christian that the Holy Spirit will teach him everything without the help of other Christians!* The Bible does not teach this kind of individualism. The Bible always speaks of God's covenant with all his people, and of his Church, the Body of Christ in which every member needs all the other members. *The Holy Spirit living in all the Christians uses all the Christians to teach one another the truth about all things.* The Holy Spirit also uses the Bible written by the prophets and apostles to teach all Christians the truth about all things. Colossians 3:16 says that Christians should let the words of the Bible dwell richly in their hearts so that they would teach one another. Therefore, when I study the Bible together with other Christians, then the Holy Spirit will teach us the truth about all the things we need to know. The Bible does not promise me that the Holy Spirit will teach me all the answers *I want to know*, but promise me that the Holy Spirit will teach me all the answers *I need to know!*

Sharing quiet times from 1 John chapter 3.

(T) I would like to share from 1 John 3:1-3 about sanctification.

First. Sanctification is never complete on earth.

These three verses teach that although Christians are already now "children of God", they do not know exactly what they will be like in the future. While Christians are still on earth, they still have a sinful nature, which affects both their spirit and their body. They are still not completely holy in their character, not completely righteous in their behaviour and not completely loving in their relationships. Christians still need to grow to maturity and Christians still need to grow in sanctification.

Second. Sanctification will be completed at the second coming of Christ.

At the second coming of Jesus Christ, everything will be finally changed! When Jesus comes again to this world, all people will be resurrected from the dead and all people who have ever lived on this earth will see him! But not everybody will be glad to see Jesus Christ at his second coming. Revelation 6:15-17 says, "Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" Note, at the second coming, mighty political and military leaders and rich and influential people, who were used to pull strings to get their way, will not be able to escape the wrath of God in the final judgement! But everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and lives a life of obedience to Jesus Christ, will be glad to see Jesus! And when Christians see Jesus on that day, they will be changed and become like Jesus. The Bible does not teach that Christians will change and "become gods" with the same divine nature (essence) as the Almighty God. No, the Bible teaches that Christians will "be like God", possessing the same divine characteristics of complete holiness, complete righteousness and complete love. Christians will always remain creatures, who have received immortality and eternal life as a gift from God!

Third. Sanctification is the responsibility of every Christian now.

Every Christian who has the hope that Jesus Christ will completely sanctify him at his second coming should devote himself to sanctification *now*. He should purify himself from every kind of sin, just as Jesus Christ is pure. I purify myself from sin, by confessing the sins I have committed, by receiving forgiveness and by resolving not to continue in

those sins. I purify myself by avoiding places of sin and people who desire to lead me into sin. I purify myself by devoting myself to live a holy, righteous and loving life every day of my life.

Sharing quiet times from 1 John chapter 4.

(S) I want to share from 1 John 4:1-6 about **testing the spirits.**

First. The need to test the spirits.

This passage teaches that a Christian should not believe every spirit, but that he should test the spirits to see whether they are from God or not. In the first place are these the *spirits* of ordinary people, especially of the teachers and prophets. The Bible warns that many false teachers and false prophets have gone out into the world to teach and preach their false messages. These false teachers and false preachers belong to the ancient world religions as well as to modern cults. God says that Christians have the responsibility *not to believe* what these teachers of other religions and cults teach. In the second place are these *the evil spirits* empower or even possess the spirits of false teachers and false prophets. Such false prophets are controlled or even possessed by demons. Evil spirits are nothing more than *fallen angels*, whose one and only purpose is to speak and act against Jesus Christ. All these evil spirits or demons are liars. All Christians have the duty *not to believe* what evil spirits say and *not to fear* what they do.

Second. The way to test the spirits.

The best way to test the spirits, is *to check what they say or do with the Bible*. The better you study the Bible and the more you obey the Bible, the better you will be able to discern if something is the truth or a lie. According to Matthew 4, when Jesus was tempted by Satan, he used the Bible to test and rebuke this evil spirit.

A second way to test the spirits is *to notice what they teach about Jesus Christ*. 1 John 4:10-15 says that every person or spirit that does *not* teach that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly Man, does not come from the God of the Bible! 1 John 2:18-23 teaches that every god of every religion that denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is not the God of the Bible and only exists in the minds of his false prophets. Every person who teaches that Jesus Christ is *not* the only Saviour of the world does not come from the God of the Bible. 1 John 2:23 says, "No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also." A third way to help Christians test the spirits is to teach them to memorise a summary of the Christian faith, like for example, "the Apostolic Confession of Faith".

Sharing quiet times from 1 John chapter 5.

(T) I want to share from 1 John 5:11-13 about **the assurance of salvation.**

1 John 5:11-13 says, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." In these three verses, the God of the Bible himself gives a testimony that every Christian may be sure that he has eternal life!

First. What is a testimony?

A *testimony* is an account of what a person knows. The testimony must always be the truth and is always given in public, because all the people must know the truth. God's testimony is therefore a truth, which he reveals to the whole world to know! In his testimony, God says that he graciously gives eternal life to people and that this eternal life is only found in Jesus Christ. God says that whoever has Jesus Christ, has eternal life and whoever does not have Jesus Christ, does not have eternal life.

Second. What is eternal life?

The eternal life, which God gives to people, is a new kind of life, a wonderful life, a meaningful life, a challenging life, an exiting life and a satisfying life! It is a life of sharing in the divine characteristics of holiness, righteousness and love! Because this life is *eternal*, it is a life that never ends. Because 'life' is always more than mere 'existence', eternal life must be a very special kind of life! John 17:3 teaches that eternal life is to know the God of the Bible personally and intimately. Eternal life is a personal and intimate relationship with the Living God and with Jesus Christ. It is a life together with the Living God and Jesus Christ. Whoever has eternal life, lives with the Living God and Jesus Christ now in this world. He will live with the Living God during death of the body and during the resurrection of the body. He will also live with the Living God in the new heaven and on the new earth for ever and ever!

Third. How does God give this eternal life to people?

God gives eternal life to people only "in Jesus Christ"! Outside Jesus Christ, eternal life or salvation is not available to anyone in the world. God will not give eternal life all by itself to anyone; but God will give eternal life to everyone who receives Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is God's gift to you. In Jesus Christ there are many blessings. When God gives Jesus Christ to you, then he also gives all his blessings to you in Jesus. Eternal life is only one of these blessings. Other blessings in Jesus Christ are forgiveness of sins, a clean conscience, belonging to God's family, love in your heart, a living hope for the future and many other blessings!

Fourth. Can people obtain this eternal life by any kind of effort?

God has *given* eternal life to believers. Eternal life is God's gift. I cannot give money to God or to the church and then buy this eternal life. I cannot bribe God to give me this eternal life. I cannot negotiate with God or make a bargain with God to sell me this eternal life. I cannot keep the laws of God and earn this eternal life. I cannot live a good life and deserve this eternal life. I cannot make a big sacrifice, like dying in a holy war, to move God's heart to give me eternal life. There is absolutely nothing that I can do by my own effort to get this eternal life. The Bible says clearly that God *gives* eternal life to me. Eternal life is God's gift to me wrapped in Jesus Christ! Therefore, when God offers Jesus Christ to me, I must receive him into my heart and life!

Fifth. How can you get this eternal life?

You must *have* Jesus Christ, in order to *have* eternal life! The Bible says that you must *believe in your heart and confess with your mouth*. Believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins and was resurrected to give you a new life. Then use your mouth, pray and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life. Receive Jesus Christ into your heart and whole life. When you receive Jesus, you receive this eternal life! Confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is from now on your Saviour and Lord.

Sixth. How can you be sure that you have eternal life?

I can be very sure that I have eternal life, because *God said* it and because *I did what God said*. Assurance of salvation is based on God's testimony and my response to God's testimony! God said that he gave me eternal life in Jesus Christ. I believed his testimony and accepted Jesus Christ. Now I *know* that I have eternal life. My feelings may change from time to time, but my knowledge about what God has promised does not change! God's testimony is written in the Bible. It is true and it does not change! God's testimony written in the Bible is the solid foundation of my assurance of salvation!

(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Continue the habit of having a quiet time every day. Read a chapter or part of a chapter from your Bible every day. Choose your favourite passage, verse or truth, and meditate on it. Record your thoughts in a notebook and meet with other Christians and share your quiet times with one another.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and build Christ's Church" and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to "Discipleship training on the air".