



## Part 2: Spiritual Formation and Following Jesus

John 1:35-43; 14:15-21

*Our formation into the likeness of Jesus happens over our lifetime as the Holy Spirit meets our intentional response to live as Jesus' disciple.*

### I. An impossible goal?

Q: If Jesus was God, is becoming like him even possible?

Last week's sermon = *God's destiny for you in Jesus is to make you like Jesus.*

### II. The Call to Become Jesus' Disciple (John 1:25-43; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:14-20)

#### A. The promise of transformation (John 1:35-42)

"Simon" = "reed in the wind; shifting sand" = undependable  
 "Cephas/Peter" = "rock, stone" = dependable/steady

Jesus sees who Peter is and promises to change him.

#### B. The decisive call to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1-11; Mark 1:14-20)

Jesus' call to be a disciple means three things:

1. Come be with Jesus.
2. Become like Jesus.
3. Live on mission like Jesus; do what he did.

#### C. A Christian is supposed to be a disciple of Jesus.

Being a Christian is more than believing a set of ideas about Jesus. It's a relationship with Jesus that leads to a particular way of life.

"To follow Jesus implies that we enter into a way of life that is given character and shape and direction by the one who calls us. To follow Jesus means picking up rhythms and ways of doing things that are often unsaid but always derivative from Jesus, formed by the influence of Jesus. To follow Jesus means that we can't separate what Jesus is saying from what Jesus is doing and the way that he is doing it. To follow Jesus is as much, or maybe even more, about feet as it is about ears and eyes." – Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

"Spiritual formation in the Christian tradition is a process of increasingly being possessed and permeated by the character traits of Jesus as we walk in the easy yoke of discipleship with Jesus our teacher." – Dallas Willard

- D. GCC Resources (see [greenwoodcc.com/resources](http://greenwoodcc.com/resources))
  1. The Invitations of Jesus – A Discipleship Guide
  2. The Practices of Jesus

### III. **Two Necessary Realities for Our Christian Formation**

- A. Our intentional commitment to be a disciple of Jesus

"The greatest issue facing the world today with all its heartbreaking needs is whether those who are identified as Christians will become disciples – students, apprentices, practitioners of Jesus Christ steadily learning from him how to live life in the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence. That's it. Jesus is not looking for converts to Christianity. He is looking for apprentices to the Kingdom of God." – Dallas Willard

- B. The empowering presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-21)

There was a moment when Peter had to decide whether to respond to Jesus' command even though he thought it was a waste of time. Maybe we find ourselves in a similar place?

"Disciples are those who, seriously intending to become like Jesus from the inside out, systematically and progressively arrange their affairs to that end, under the guidance of the Word and the Spirit." – Dallas Willard

“The Jesus way wedded to the Jesus truth brings about the Jesus life.” – Eugene Peterson, *The Jesus Way*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Read John 1:35-43 and Luke 5:1-11. These stories reflect Peter’s first meeting with Jesus and later Jesus’ decisive call to Peter to become his disciple. What do you observe in these two stories?
2. When Jesus called someone to be his disciple, it meant three things:
  - a. Be with Jesus (literally).
  - b. Become like Jesus.
  - c. Learn to do what Jesus did.

Read John 14:15-21. What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? What are the implications for us?

3. Have you ever heard of the language “spiritual formation”? What have you been taught about this?
4. Consider Dallas Willard’s definition. What questions does this raise for you?
 

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