



THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS

DAILY TIME WITH GOD

In the Bible, God uses analogies from the physical world to help us understand how important He is spiritually. How significant are the following things to your life and how does it relate spiritually?

Life: Life cannot form from non-life, rather it originates from a source, and that source is God. Nothing living exists without this divine wellspring of life. (John 1:4, John 10:10, Colossians 3:4)

Light: Light is crucial for life as it provides energy, and without energy, life cannot thrive and it remains in darkness. Jesus claimed to be the "light of the world." (John 8:12, 1 John 1:5)

Food: Nourishment and growth are sustained by food. Without it, living organisms wither and perish. Jesus identified Himself as the "bread of life." (John 6:35, Deuteronomy 8:3)

Water: Water is essential for life to exist. It is considered indispensable for sustaining life. The Holy Spirit is the living water that flows from God to us and out to the world. (John 4:14, Isaiah 44:3)

Now, imagine what your life would be like if you were separated from any one of these elements in the physical world. What would you do if you could not eat or drink? How could life continue in the darkness? Can death ever produce life apart from God? If a limb is severed from the body how can it remain alive? The reality is that when we disconnect from God on a spiritual level, we are essentially cutting ourselves off from the very source that grants us a healthy and fruitful life. Share your thoughts:

Read and Reflect:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:5-8

A Real Relationship

Jesus says, In John 3:6, that all must be born again, "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." When we believe and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior we are born into a new life in Christ. We become children of God, John 1:12-13, and God desires to have a relationship with us as beloved children and Him as our Father. In fact, it is our relationship with God, specifically Jesus that will be highlighted on the last day and those who have religious activity divorced from a relationship with Jesus will be turned away. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" Matthew 7:21-23.

The will of the Father is that all people would come to repentance and a knowledge of Jesus as their Lord and Savior (2 Peter 3:9). Our hunger for time with God proves that our heart genuinely desires to be in relationship with Him for eternity, and it is the fruit of a changed life. If we do not hunger to be in the presence of God, what does that say about our relationship with Him?

What kind of relationship do you want to have with God? What would Jesus say to you if you died tonight?

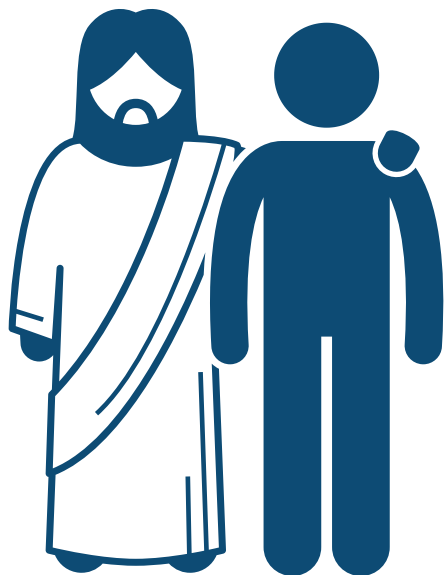
Becoming a One Percenter (1%): Getting Closer to God

If you feel like life is too busy and stressful, you're not alone. Most days fly by, and it's tough to imagine adding more things to your already packed schedule. With work, family, and tons of distractions like social media and TV, it's easy to lose track of time. But if you take a closer look at your day, you'll probably find that you waste a lot of time on things that don't really matter.

Did you know that 1% of your day is just 15 minutes? Think about how you spend your time. How much time do you spend watching the news, TV, or scrolling through social media? Now, compare that to the time you spend with God.

The God of the Universe has made it possible for us to connect with Him. This is a special gift we received because of Jesus' sacrifice. What if you started to value this opportunity more? Building good habits takes time, but here's a simple way to start: set aside 15 minutes a day, preferably in the morning, to spend time with God. Once you get used to this routine, you can add more time if you want.

Start by just showing up. Then, include some time for prayer. After that, start reading the Bible. As you get more familiar with the Bible, spend time praying about what you've read. Think about it during the day. Finally, study the Bible more deeply and find ways to use its teachings in your life.



Lesson 1: MAKING GOD A PRIORITY

Meeting God early each day and aligning our will to His. Setting our focus on Him.

Lesson 2: GENUINE LOVE FOR GOD

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Love our neighbors.

Lesson 3: LOVE AND OBEDIENCE

We display our love for God by how we obey His commands.

Lesson 4: FRUITFULNESS

It is from an overflow of our love for God that we engage as His ambassadors.