

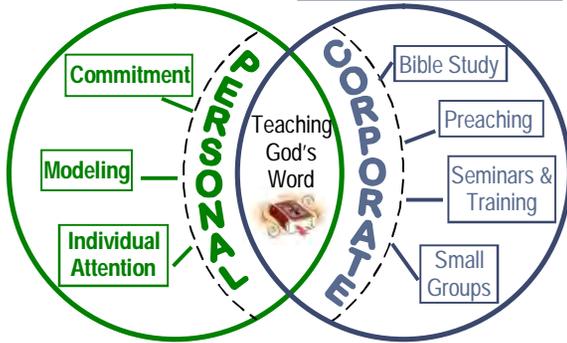
Balanced Discipleship

Balanced discipleship (Personal AND Corporate) is needed for healthy spiritual growth. They complement each other. Most churches are focused on Corporate discipleship (i.e. teaching), and most leaders will admit they do not have the time or resources to spend individually with each new believer. They recognize, however, that something is missing – some additional ingredient is needed to produce healthy Christians.

What's the answer? Training faithful men and women in the congregation to be Disciples, to provide the necessary individual attention. We do not believe that a person needs formal seminary or Bible school training or the gift of teaching in order to disciple others. All that's needed is faithfulness – to the Holy Spirit.

Personal Discipleship
(vitaly needed but largely neglected)

Corporate Discipleship
(needed but typically not sufficient by itself to produce the best results)



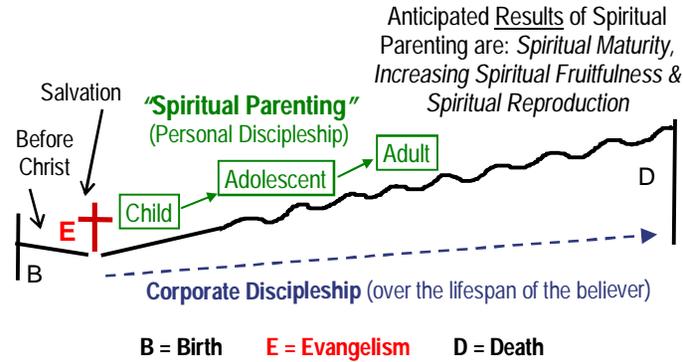
In addition to **Teaching God's Word**, Personal Discipleship consists of:

Commitment: A heart attitude of the Disciple towards the Disciple. It's more than just presenting God's Word. We want the Disciple to end up with the passion of the Disciple.

Modeling: Occurs mostly outside of formal teaching settings. The Disciple needs to be available and share personal experiences—both positive and negative.

Individual Attention: We don't want to just present the material from an academic perspective. The Holy Spirit should be allowed to control the pace and direction, so He can address the needs of the Disciple.

Model for Biblical Discipleship



I Thessalonians 2:3-13 is our Model for Spiritual Parenting (Biblical Discipleship)

1. They were Single-Minded in Purpose.

:3-6 ... so we speak, **not to please men, but rather God**, who examines our hearts. For we never used flattering speech, as you know, or had greedy motives—God is our witness—and **we didn't seek glory from people**, either from you or from others. Although we could have been a burden as Christ's apostles,...

2. They cared for the believers as a Mother cares for her children.

:7-8 ... instead **we were gentle** among you, **as a nursing MOTHER nurtures** her own children. **We cared so much for you** that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also **our own lives**, because **you had become dear to us**.

3. They became "Role Models" to the new believers.

:9-10 For you remember **our labor and hardship**, brothers. **Working night and day** so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you. **You are witnesses**, and so is God, of how **devoutly, righteously, and blamelessly we conducted ourselves** with you believers.

4. They gave individual attention and instruction as a Father.

:11-12 As you know, **like a FATHER** with his own children, we **encouraged, comforted, and implored EACH ONE** of you to walk worthy of God, who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

5. The Word of God was an essential component of Discipleship.

:13 This is why we constantly thank God, because when you received the message about God that you heard from us, you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, **the message of God**, which also **works effectively in you believers**.

Spiritual Mentoring

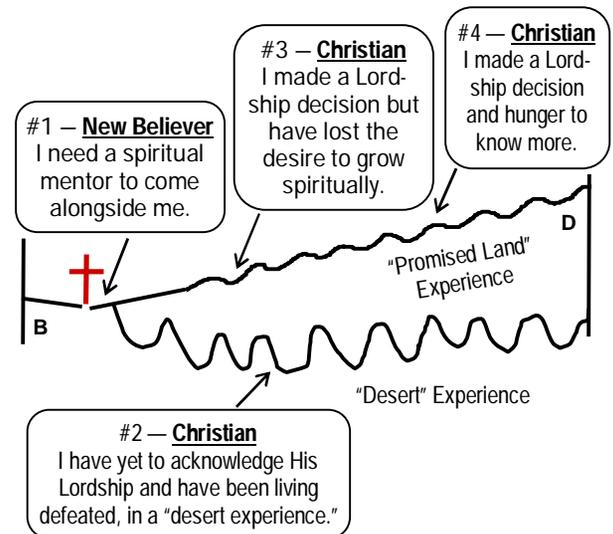
The Apostle Paul refers to himself as a nursing mother, treating each one with individualized personal attention. This supports the belief that God had these things written to help us understand that there is a parallel between the spiritual development of a new believer and the development of a human baby.

When parents bring a newborn baby home, they don't just set the baby down and say "Welcome to the family. Make yourself at home. The milk is in the 'fridge." They give lots of individual care and attention. God pictures the new believer as a spiritual baby that needs individual attention.

Disciple Training International has developed a special tool to help faithful believers who have a passion for the Lord and want to come alongside new believers. Or, it can be used with any Christian who wants to grow in their spiritual walk.

Where am I as a Christian?

Use this diagnostic tool to determine where you are in your Christian life; then refer to our Resources page for additional assistance.



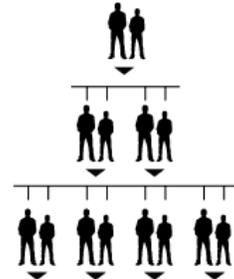
Resources

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Art and Toni Barkley served as missionaries for about 20 years in Bolivia with New Tribes Mission, where the groundwork for the importance of discipleship was formed. They observed that many new believers were enthusiastic at the beginning of their new life with the Lord, but after a time their zeal would often fade, and sometimes they could hardly be recognized as believers.

After returning to the U.S.A., they saw the same pattern and felt there was something missing. Art was also bothered by the common perception that the Christian life is too difficult to understand. Why would the same God who designed the gift of salvation to be so easily received, turn around and make the Christian life so difficult to understand and live?

The Holy Spirit has directed Art over the last 15 years or so to develop "A Tool for Personal Discipleship" – the foundation of Discipuler Training International.



DTI is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.
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A Guide to Spiritual Mentoring and Spiritual Multiplication

*A non-denominational discipleship ministry
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spiritual growth, discipling believers,
and training disciplers.*

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A Tool for Personal Discipleship

A TOOL FOR PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Three Phases of the Curriculum

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- 16 Lessons to be used with any believer

Phase 2—*Discipler Training*

- Tips and training for those who want to disciple other believers

Phase 3—*Amplified Discipleship Concepts*

- Lessons to expand understanding of how to walk in dependence on the Holy Spirit

INTERNET SITE

- www.disciplers.org (We invite your comments, questions and testimonies)

TRAIN THE TRAINERS

- DTI will consider requests to conduct workshops to help train Pastors and church leaders to train others in their congregation to be Disciplers.

DISTANCE LEARNING TRAINING CLASSES

- Web based training using live remote teachers

SPIRITUAL PARENTS

- As led by the Holy Spirit, we attempt to connect newer believers with spiritual parents.

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