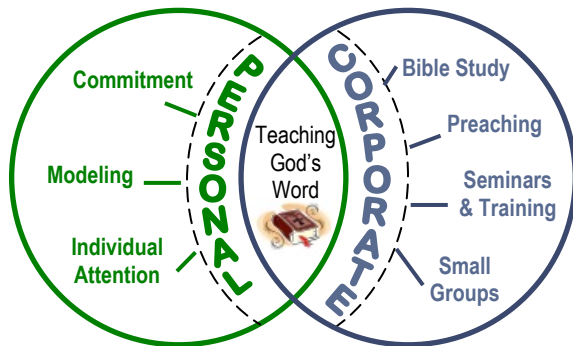


A Need for Balanced Discipleship

Balanced discipleship (Personal AND Corporate) complement each other, producing healthy spiritual growth. 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 Spiritual Mentors, 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 mostly neglected)
Corporate Discipleship (needed but often not sufficient by itself to produce the best results)



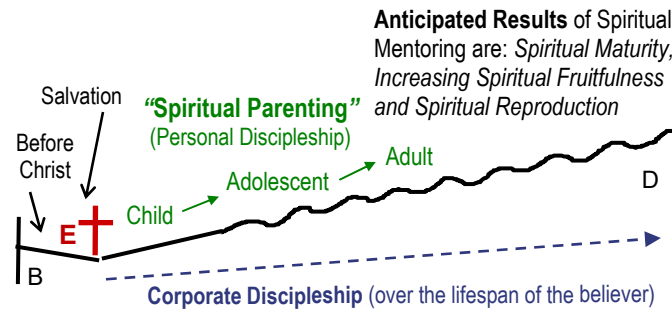
In addition to **Teaching God's Word**, Personal Discipleship consists of:

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 to 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 both the Disciple and Discipler.

A Biblical Model for Discipleship



B = Birth E = Evangelism D = Death

1 Thessalonians 2:3-13 is a Model for Spiritual Mentoring (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**.

Individual Attention / Spiritual Mentoring

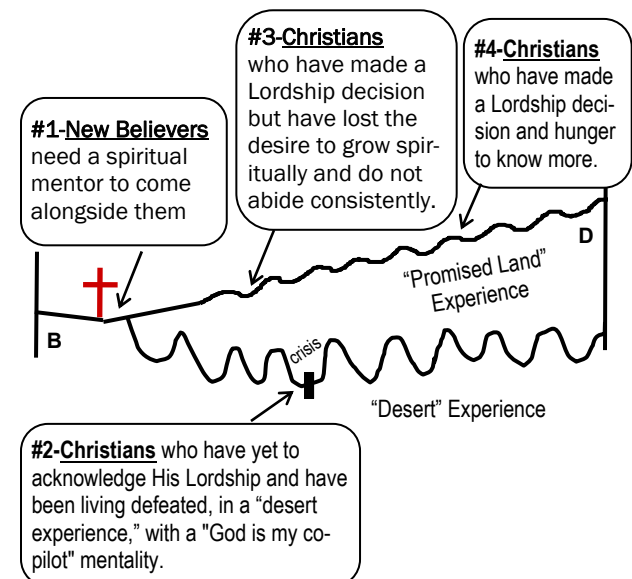
The Apostle Paul refers to himself as a nursing mother, treating each one with individualized personal attention. God had these things written to help us understand that there is a parallel between the spiritual development of a new believer and the development of a human baby.

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 who needs individual attention.

A Tool for Personal Discipleship will 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.

Target Groups for Mentoring

Use this diagnostic tool to determine where your church body is in their spiritual journey; then refer to our Free Resources section for additional assistance.



Free 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 one-on-one 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.

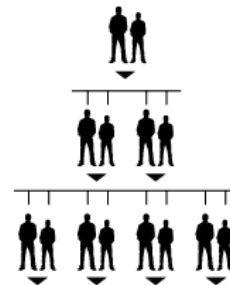
After returning to the USA, they saw the same pattern and felt there was something missing. Art was also bothered by the common perception that the Christian life is too difficult to understand. Why would the same God who designed the gift of salvation to be so easily received, turn around and make the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

The Holy Spirit has directed Art since 2000 to develop "A Tool for Personal Discipleship" – the foundation of Discipler Training International.

2 Timothy 2:2

You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses.

Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.



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A Tool for Personal Discipleship

A Guide to Spiritual Mentoring and Spiritual Multiplication

A non-denominational discipleship ministry, providing free discipleship resources for training disciplers (spiritual mentors) to help every Christian grow to maturity and fruitfulness in Christ and spiritually reproduce (Colossians 1:28)



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A TOOL FOR PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Three Phases of the Curriculum

Phase 1—*Understanding the Christian Life*

- Principles to help the believer live the abundant Christian life

Phase 2—*Mentor Training*

- Guidelines for those who want to disciple / mentor other believers

Phase 3—*Amplified Discipleship Concepts*

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

APP FOR MOBILE DEVICES

- A Tool for Personal Discipleship is available in electronic format in both English and Spanish from a link on our web site, and can be used off-line after accessing.

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