

## **Preface**

### **The Manual**

A few years ago, I noticed a difference in amongst 'Christians'! While talking and working with Christians on an intimate level, I realized the difference was in their faith, not belief. Basically, Born again 'Christians' can be categorized in two groups, believers and followers. There are believers and there are followers. Now you may say to yourself, "They are the same thing" but I am sorry to tell you they are not!

A follower is a person that puts Jesus as the center of their life. They read God's Word and act upon it.

**James 1:22 "22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."**

They see their whole existence for life as living for and serving Christ.

In other words: They see their life as a thank you to God! Jesus died for me, so I will live for Jesus! These people are mature in their faith.

A believer is immature in their faith. They see salvation as 'me centered', Jesus died for me! and my life is for comfort.

The Bible clearly states in John 3:16 Jesus died for the 'World' not just me and it does not speak of comfort, it talks about ACTION!

The problem is we have a large deficit in the area of followers! Entire generations are not living their faith! In reading the Bible you will be quick to find how this came about.

**Matthew 28:19,20 "19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always , even to the end of the age."**

This is the 'Great Commission'. Yet, the church has made it to be the 'Great Omission'! Many people go therefore, they go out and share Jesus, but they do not teach Him.

Jesus clearly stated He wanted us to go out with salvation and to teach people how to live, guide them in their faith. The word disciple – **maqeteuo**, matheteuo<sup>1</sup> – it means, learner.

Jesus wants us to take others and teach them the faith! Don't share salvation and leave the person in the same condition they were before! Guide, direct and instruct them help change them into a follower living God's Word. You do not have a baby and leave it on it's own to raise itself! That is ludicrous! So why do we do it to spiritual babies?

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<sup>1</sup> Thayer and Smith. "Greek Lexicon entry for Matheteuo". "The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon". . 1999.

In 2006, I decided the best way to go about this was a structured way of instruction. A 'Basic Training' where you take a believer and help them become a follower who is productive to the body of Christ. My wife Meg and I wrote a few key areas of Christian life essential in the development of a follower. The result was "A Living Sacrifice" Discipleship Manual, a thirteen week program built on using the truth of God's Word to change the old way of thinking!

The manual goes through stages of growth in a person's life needed to successfully follow Jesus.  
Stage 1: Building Your Relationship With Christ  
Stage 2: Building Your Testimony With God and Man  
Stage 3: Building the Body and Building Others

The Goal: "To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

The Means: Transforming yourself by God's word.

The Theme: Becoming a follower, a 'Living Sacrifice'. Dying to self to live for Jesus!

#### **Who is the manual meant for?**

The manual is meant for One-to-One, ladies working with ladies or men working with men. It is not recommended for family to work together.

You ever heard that saying, "you can force a horse to water, but you can't make him drink"? Well you can force a person to the Word of God, but you can't make him drink!

**2 Timothy 2:2 "2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."**

Paul started with Timothy, Timothy had the responsibility to find people that would listen to what he said. Find teachable men.

In other words find F.A.T. people and teach them.

*F*aitiful – reliable and person of their word

*A*vailable – time to do the training

*T*eachable – they are: Humble, listen to instruction and willing to learn<sup>2</sup>

Share the gospel to all, but teach His messages to the ones that will listen. This is how our faith multiplies.

The manual is set up for a leader to instruct the Biblical truths which lead to growth. It is important that the lessons include personal testimony from the life of the leader to help the disciple grow.

**Proverbs 27:17 "17 Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another."**

Use your experiences to build your brother in Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> Acrostic taken from Pastor Charles Birch D.D. 2008 Men's Retreat Session, Who Can You Coach?  
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The disciple's manual includes:

A small portion of the Leaders Notes and Outline

Memory Verses

Home Work

Recommended Reading

The manual should take 13 weeks, but it can take longer. It is important to stick to the structure of the manual! Yet, if you notice the disciple needs a review or further help in an area, take the time to build. There are some days that you will find it is more important to listen to the disciple. Be sure to get back to the manual and to avoid 'rabbit trails', they lead no where and do not serve a purpose in building. The manual is not a CLASS! It is an adventure you are taking with a brother or sister in the faith, growing together as you grow in Christ. It is an investment of time and friendship!

**Romans 12:1,2 “1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”**

I urge you to grow, I urge you to invest and I urge you to TRANSFORM.