

Spiritual Exercise

³¹ *As for God, His way is perfect;
The word of the LORD is proven;
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

³² *For who is God, except the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?*

2Samuel 22:31-32

⁹ The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed,
A refuge in times of trouble.

¹⁰ And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;
For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Psalm 9:9-10

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring *it* to pass.

⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.

Psalm 37:3-6

The LORD *is* good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.

Nahum 1:7

The Mystery of God

And He said to them, "To
you it has been given to
know the mystery of the
kingdom of God..."

Mark 4:11

Let a man so consider
us, as servants of
Christ and stewards of
the mysteries of God.

1Corinthians 4:1

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Proverbs 25:2



The Doctrine of Man

Prayer

The Adventure Begins (continued)

Introduction

Our God is a process oriented problem solver. Give Him a problem and He will give you a process to solve it. As we learned last week, the story of the Bible is the process God is orchestrating to get back what was lost in the Garden – His reign over, relationship with, and habitation in, His children.

Most of the major “concepts” of Scripture are process oriented. We are to continue and grow in them (e.g., faith, hope and love); or, they are processes that God uses to mature us (e.g., sanctification, transformation). Even the events (e.g., the fall of Man, the death and resurrection of Christ) are actively powerful years after their signature moments.

Recognizing that God operates “in process” will dramatically change our perspective of life. It will impact our relationships with God and all of His creation. This may seem overly bold. However, we have become an event oriented people – particularly in the West. We have become focused on the moment. “What have you done for me today?” has become our measure.

This subtle shift in thinking has affected our doctrine and our discipline. For example, we have become more interested in the salvation decision than the process of discipleship. We have also become more focused on the times I spend with God than on the life that He is living in and through us.

Therefore, as we consider the format for the remainder of our training together, we will search out a few of the processes God has instituted for our making.

Definition

Adventure: an undertaking usually involving danger and unknown risks; the encountering of risks; an exciting or remarkable experience. www.merriam-webster.com

Greek Verb Tenses:

Present Tense – The present tense usually denotes continuous kind of action. It shows 'action in progress' or 'a state of persistence.'

Aorist Tense – The aorist is said to be "simple occurrence" or "summary occurrence", without regard for the amount of time taken to accomplish the action... 'viewed as a single, collective whole,' a "one-point-in-time" action, although it may actually take place over a period of time..

Sanctify (*hagiazō*): to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow; to separate from profane things and dedicate to God (consecrate things to God, dedicate people to God); to purify (to cleanse externally; to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin; to purify internally by renewing of the soul).

Outline of Biblical Usage, BlueLetterBible.org

¹⁷ Sanctify [aorist] them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify [present] Myself, that they also may be sanctified [present] by the truth. John 17:17-18

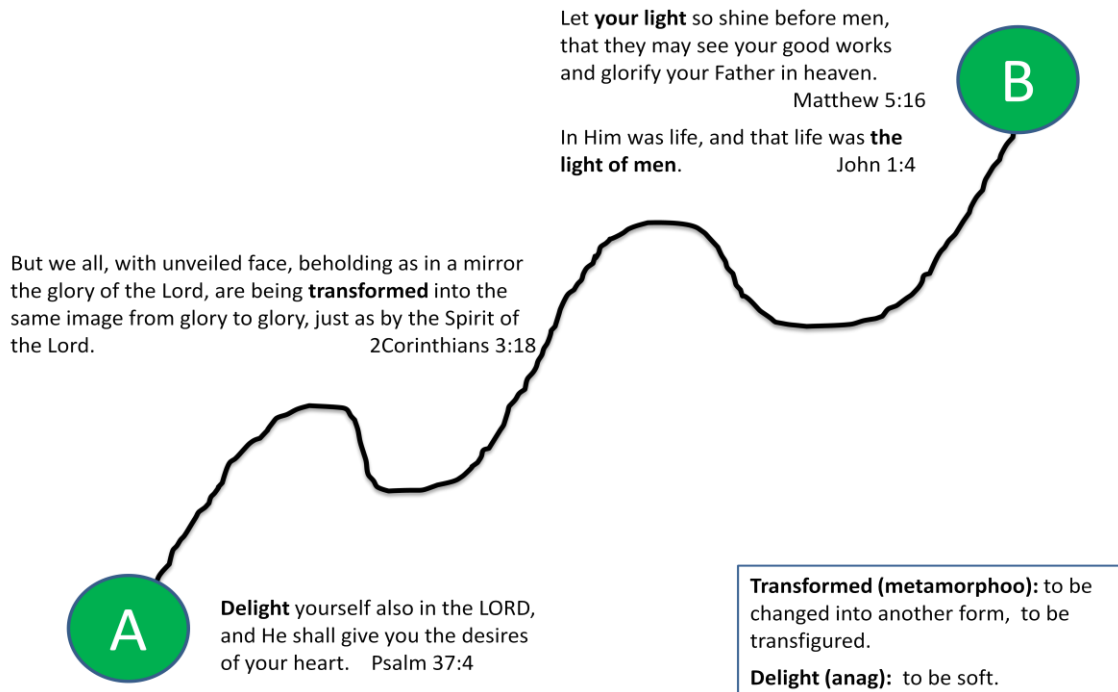
The Adventure Begins (continued)

Searching Out the Matter

(All Scripture references, but those noted, are NKJV; Thomas Nelson, Inc.; footnotes excluded)

Transformation

God is calling Marketplace Leaders to an adventure that will transform them and those in their spheres of influence.



Romans 12:2

Matthew 17:1-2

2Corinthians 2:15

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you *not* to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. (*Return to Love* by Marianne Williamson, Harper Collins, 1992)

The Adventure Begins (continued)

Finding Joyful, Spirit-filled Ministry

The context for our adventure is the discovery of joyful, Spirit-filled ministry – for leaders and the ones they disciple.

“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one...”

“Let your light so shine before men that they will see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Jesus Christ

**In Unity,
Glorify God**

Submit to His Power

Sacrifice to His Plan

Surrender to His Purpose

Man was created to glorify God, and enjoy His presence forever.

First Presbyterian Catechism

Psalms 37:4

Job 42:2

Luke 14:28

Luke 14:27

Matthew 5:16

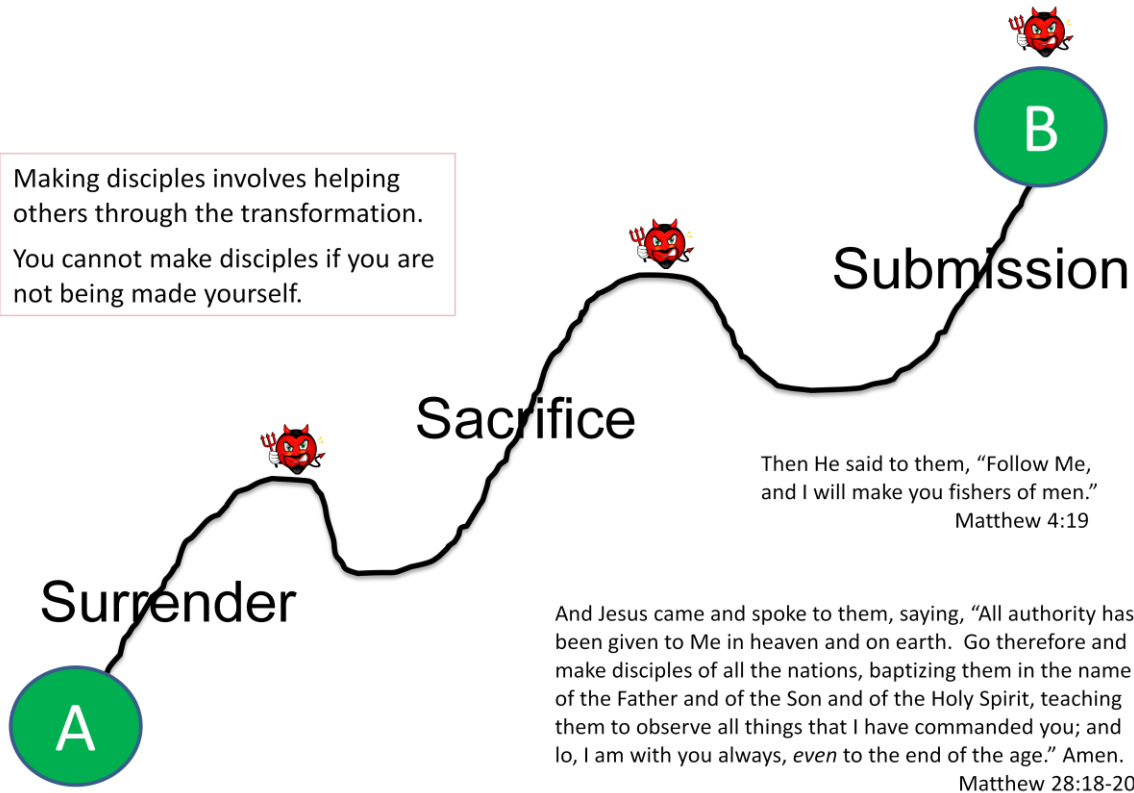
Ephesians 1:15-19

The Adventure Begins (continued)

Disciple Making

Marketplace Ministry requires the making of disciples God's way; helping others through the transformation process.

Making disciples involves helping others through the transformation.
You cannot make disciples if you are not being made yourself.



Believe

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in [is believing into] Him should not perish but have [is having] everlasting life. John 3:16

Salvation

Salvation (*sōtēria*): deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation; deliverance from the molestation of enemies; in an ethical sense, that which concludes to the soul's safety or salvation (of Messianic salvation); salvation as the present possession of all true Christians; future salvation, the sum of benefits and blessings which the Christians, redeemed from all earthly ills, will enjoy after the visible return of Christ from heaven in the consummated and eternal kingdom of God. *Outline of Biblical Usage, BlueLetterBible.org*

Ephesians 2:8-9

1Corinthians 1:18

2Corinthians 2:15

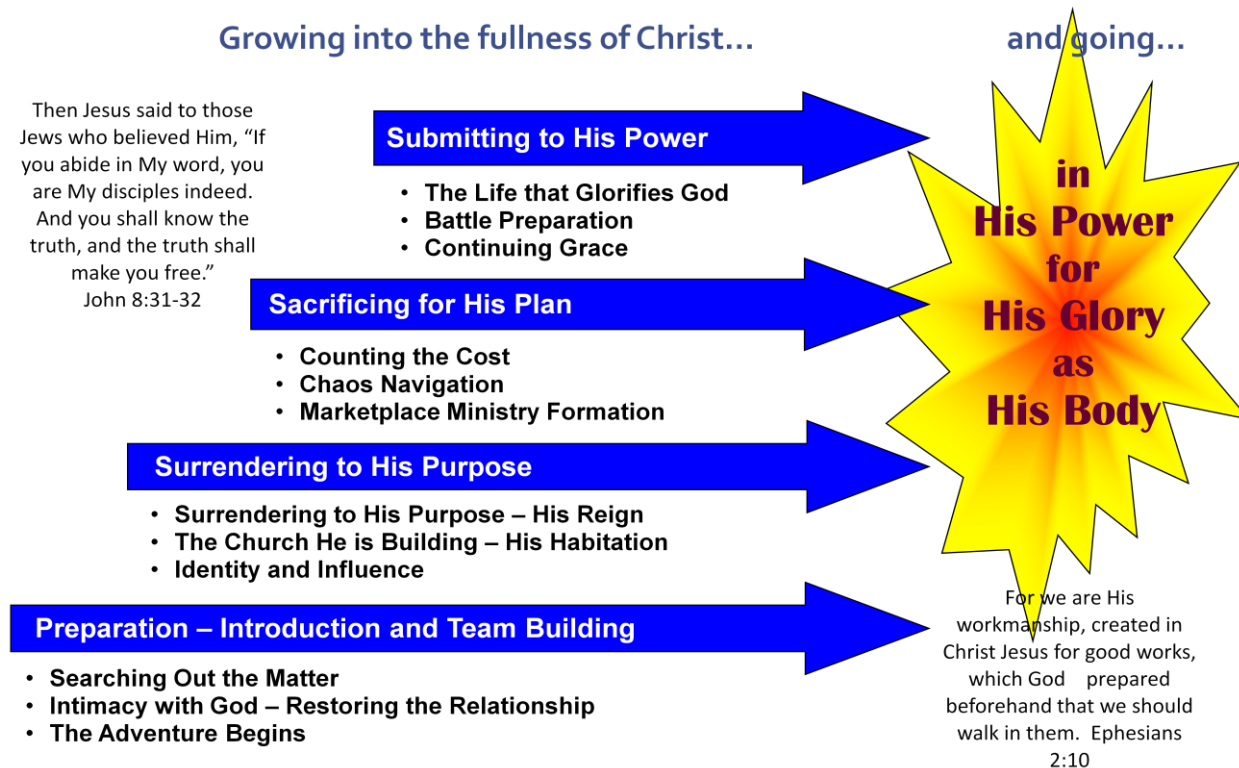
Romans 5:9-11

Matthew 24:13

The Adventure Begins (continued)

Curriculum

Finding joyful Spirit-filled ministry requires surrender, sacrifice and submission. The result is God's glory; in and through the work.



Assignment

1. Review the Bible passages for this week. Study and meditate on those that may have challenged your understanding. Ask the Lord to give meaning to them for you.
2. The Greek word for transformed (2 Corinthians 3:18) and transfigured (Matthew 17:2) are the same. What does this tell you about God's purpose for your life?
3. The Hebrew word for delight in Psalm 37:4 means "to be soft" – like clay in the potter's hands. How does this affect your understanding of the verse?