

# **THE PRICE AND REWARDS**

## **OF DISCIPLESHIP**

# The Price and Rewards of Discipleship

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My attitudes and mindset are most clearly defined in the qualities of a disciple. A disciple is one who is as his master. Come and live for Me, give your life for My service. Give and do not hold back, and I promise you that you will not be disappointed. I promise you that your joy will have no bounds. Your thrills, fulfillment and satisfaction will be complete; they will be beyond what you thought or imagined possible. This satisfaction and fulfillment, these thrills of life and love, are only found in the path of complete surrender. They are not found on any other path. They are not found by any other means. They are not achieved by any other efforts.

Only on the path of yieldedness and complete surrender to Me are the greatest treasures found. Those who walk this path and seek these riches experience thrills that no others experience in the flesh. It will not look like much if you view it carnally; the riches will not be seen. But in the spirit, seen through the eyes of the spirit and filled by the spirit, the choice is crystal clear and the truth is clearly seen. Come and live your life to the full. Live for Me and you will not be disappointed. (1)

Discipleship is a tough profession. It requires a high standard in spirit and behavior. It requires forsaking all, obedience, yieldedness, and willingness to do the job even if everything isn't to your liking--even if nothing is to your liking! As a disciple, sometimes you have to carry on when everything and everyone seems to be against you, when you feel so down you don't see how you can last one more minute. On top of it, you have the Devil and his minions such as Lethargy, Pan, Bacchus, Selvegion and Apotheon trying with all their might to convince you to give up, and if they can't get you to do that, then to compromise. (2)

My way is both the way of sacrifice and death to self, but also the way of the greatest reward and joy--not necessarily the greatest comfort or ease, but there's simply nothing that can be compared with the joy of knowing that you have the truth, that you are living for a cause that is right, and that you are giving of yourself toward eternal values and treasures. That's something that you have to decide for yourself. You have to determine personally whether that matters enough to you that you're willing to dedicate your life toward it. Nothing I say will convince you. Nothing that anyone says will convince you. You must decide for

yourself, "Is this worth it? Is it worth it to me to be a disciple, to give my all for Jesus, to believe in the truths that have been revealed to me, to forsake myself, to yield all to the Lord and to go His way, with the goal of winning others to Him and helping them find the truth and eternal salvation and happiness?" (3)

## **The Example of Jesus's Life**

*(Jesus:)* So much happened during My lifetime in the flesh. I had trials and tests, happy times and sad times. I had battles to face and lessons to learn just like you do. And just like you, I learned to obey through the things I experienced. Because I was in the flesh, I had to learn how to yield and obey and follow My Father's will the same way you do.

You know that when you yield to Me and follow where I lead you, I will always do great things for you. It was the same with My Father and Me when I was on Earth. He did great things for Me and through Me because I stayed close to Him and looked to Him, because I yielded to His will and I obeyed His counsel. But this was a test for Me at times. Because I was in the flesh, I had My share of tests in the flesh, and when those tests came I had to choose to do the right thing, just like you do. Your life is full of choices and decisions, and so was Mine. (4)

*(Jesus:)* Because of My love for My Father and My yieldedness to His will, I and My Father were one. Our desires were one and the same. Our hearts were one. Because I wanted to please Him and follow His calling for Me, even though it meant dying on the cross, He was able to give Me overcoming power and fill My human flesh with His Spirit, His power, and His supernatural anointing. And the same can be true for you. When you're strong in My Spirit and your will is one with Mine, then you can command Me to do whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (5)

## **Let's Follow His Example**

The key is the motivation of your heart. If your motivation is to do My will, to lay aside your own life and your own will and your own wants and desires to truly follow Me, this is the key. For I will have control of your heart and your life. As it is written, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luk.9:23). So if you will deny yourself and your own wants and wishes and your will, and sincerely and desperately seek Me for

My will, then I will guide you, and I will help you. (6)

You hold in your hand the key of Heaven, and your part is but to take hold of, embrace, grasp, and never let go of it, nor of the precious treasures that it allows you access to. Never set aside this key or let it out of your sight. Never let its value diminish in your eyes, or else you will risk losing it or misplacing it and all that comes along with it. This key is your yieldedness and commitment to Me, your desperation of heart to fulfill My will. (7)

Are you willing to lay down your own life, your own will? Do you desire to do My will? That's what I'm asking of you right now--to be yielded to My will, yielded to what I would do through you. Are you ready to be yielded?

Will you step forward? I have called you by your name. You feel My Spirit pulling your heart. Will you kneel down before Me and bow your head in humility that I may anoint you with the oil of My anointing? (8)

The highest blessings and benefits come as a result of total obedience, yieldedness, and following Me closely. That's what discipleship is all about. So before you start inspecting your bagful of blessings, rewards, and perks, be sure to inspect your standard of discipleship. Once you're living it to the full, the rewards, blessings, and benefits will follow, and I promise they will trail after you in great abundance. (9)

## **Will You Choose to Be Controlled by the Lord?**

*(David:)* Many feel that in yielding to what the Lord wants in their lives, they're "giving in." Well, it's true that they are, but those who refuse to yield are also giving in. They're giving in to the Devil and his forces. They're giving in to his demands that they not yield. It's a lie of the Enemy that you can't yield or you'll lose who you are. You'll still be the unique individual that the Lord has made you--you'll just be following closer to Him than you were before.

The ultimate goal is to become like Jesus, but Jesus has many personalities in His being. He doesn't want mindless robots to serve Him. If He did, He would never have given mankind the freedom to choose between right and wrong. But He has given each person that choice, and what they choose will directly affect how much the Lord can use them and when. Those who follow closer will be able to be used more, but those who drag their feet and are slow to catch on and yield

will instead have to be used to a lesser extent.

So the choice is yours. How much do you want to be used for the Lord? Do you want to hang on to your so-called "individuality" at any cost? Or do you want to yield to the Lord and let Him use you to accomplish His will? That's the choice. Do you want to be stubborn and rebellious, or do you want to yield and benefit from all the blessings He has in store for you if you'll just yield? (10)

*(David speaking:)* Those who are completely yielded to the Lord will want to be under His control. They will want to be His love slaves, led by His voice. They will want His desires to be their desires, His plan to be their plan, His will to be their will. For aren't we all controlled by the Lord? Aren't we all His little robots, His puppets, created to please Him and to obey Him and to yield to His slightest bidding? But He won't force that yieldedness and that obedience and that submission; He won't take it against our will. He wants it to be given willingly and lovingly by our own choice. (11)

It is a matter of choice to accept that which I have planned and My will for your lives, and that it is found only in total submission and lack of your own will and the setting aside of your own desires to give yourself wholly unto Me. When you give yourself wholly unto Me without reservation and are willing to follow Me whithersoever I would lead, then will you find that which you seek, and be filled with all the goodness of God, and your desires shall be fulfilled. For the bounties of My blessings come only through the path of yieldedness and obedience to My will, and through your love for Me and for My life-giving Words. (12)

There is no limit to what I can do through a man or woman--even a very young man or woman--who is fully yielded to Me! Do you realize what a powerful statement that is? No limit means there are no boundaries. No limit means there are no walls in the way of My will being performed, if you believe. No limit means there are no obstacles in the way of My plan and program that can't be overcome or removed or destroyed or turned into steppingstones. No limit means that there is nothing in Hell or on Earth that can get in the way of My power. No limit means that My power is unrestrained, unrestricted, and unable to be contained by anything, anyone, any power, or any principality.

You must learn the full scope of these words: There is no limit to what I can do. And then you must learn to allow Me to fully possess you, so that you will have the faith and the spiritual power to let Me work through you to

fulfill My unlimited plans. Let there be no limits when it comes to your obedience, dependence on Me, and faith in Me. Then there will be no limits to what I will be able to do for you and through you! (13)

I don't expect perfection. All I need and desire is a willing, yielded, believing heart. All I need is a heart and life of one who is willing to try. Even if you can barely whisper these words, all you have to say is: "Jesus, I know I'm weak. I feel like I can't make it. In fact, I know I can't make it. It seems too great, too big, too impossible for little ol' me. But I want to make it, Jesus. I want to try. And You said that's all that matters. So I give You my heart and my life. I'm going to give You my all—everything... (14)

So you do not need to worry or fear that you can't make it, that it's too much for you, that you just don't have what it takes. Because don't you see?--It's not in you! The power, grace, strength and love you need is not in you, but I can give it to you, and I will give it to you, if you'll only look to Me in desperate prayer and step out by faith in obedience and yieldedness to do what I have asked you to do, to the best of your ability. (15)

*(Jesus speaking:)* As you take steps--even little steps day by day--of obedience to Me, moving closer and closer to the center of My will and the high standard of My calling for you, your life will in turn grow richer day by day.

The peace of God that passes all understanding is not something that can be comprehended or understood--it's something that you must experience, live, and feel and know for yourself. It's not possible to explain to you in words how and why it's worth striving for, but as you begin to live it, you begin to feel it, believe it and know it, and you more than agree that it's worth giving up whatever trinkets may have cluttered your life in order to obtain this pearl of great price.

There are no rich gifts or treasures of the spirit that do not come at a price. It always takes a step of faith, or a step of forsaking, or both, to reach out toward the things of the spirit. But it's in this faith and in this forsaking that part of the joy and reward is found. Forsaking your own will in order to obtain Mine is not merely some form of ritual or exercise or test that I throw around for the sake of it. It's a necessary step toward receiving from Me.

It's a spiritual and even a physical law that a space must first be emptied of one substance before it can be filled with another. Therefore it is necessary, if you are to receive the things I have to offer, that you give up some of the things that

the Enemy has offered you or given you; or that you have of your own accord chosen to take to yourself.

Can you see this? Can you understand it? Doesn't that help you see why it's so important to obey, to follow, to do as I ask, to yield, to submit, to forsake your own thoughts, ideas, desires and mode of operating? The more you do, the more space you have for Me and for the true jewels, beauties, and treasures that are yours to obtain. The only thing that stops you from obtaining them is yourself, when you choose to hold back, when you choose to hold on to what you already have, fearing its loss, fearing the emptiness that will come if you let go. But the emptiness is not to be feared, My love. It is to be sought after and treasured, for when you are empty, I can fill you.

I fill the hungry with good things. That's a law of My Spirit and My nature. It's irrefutable. It's My promise. You can count on it. I never, ever take something away or ask you to give something up unless I replace it with something of far greater value. I ask you to give up the cheap costume jewelry, yes, but only so that you might then enjoy the beauty and purity of the genuine jewels and pearls that are Mine to give you. But why should I give them to you if you're content with the cheap beads and plaster?

If that's all you desire, and if that's what you crave, then it doesn't seem a worthwhile investment or generosity on My part to give you the valuable article. But when I see and know that you desire what I have to give, that you want the real thing, and that you want it so much you are willing to give up everything else to have it, then and only then do I know that My gift and blessing will be treasured, and then do I choose to give it to you.

If you want the highest and most precious treasures of My Spirit, you must show Me that you mean business. You must show Me that you want them. You have to empty yourself of the froth and frivolous pursuits and possessions, so that there is a space in your life for the things of highest value. (16)

Let go of your earthly and carnal limitations, and let Me transform you and mold you into what I know you need to be in order to accomplish My will. The transformation is My doing. The yielding and believing, even if you cry out, "Lord, I believe! Help Thou my unbelief," is your part in the process. Let's work together on this so that we can rejoice together when you join Me here in My heavenly Kingdom where you will rule and reign with Me forever. (17)

When you've proven your faith and dependence on Me and My Word, and

you've followed My instructions and done what I've asked of you, you've determined to yield, to accept, to obey, to be made willing, and to pass the tests, I know that no matter what I ask of you and no matter what the test, you are determined to try to pass it to the best of your ability, and that's the most important thing to Me. (18)

Even if the life you're living now for Me was all that you ever had, it would be a life well worth living, a life which pleases Me. But there is more to come than this. All of what you are experiencing and doing is leading to something, building up to something that will amaze you and thrill you and make you glad for every moment that you obeyed, every moment that you listened, every moment that you practiced, every moment that you yielded, and every moment that you gave Me the best part of your life and heart. (19)

The best followers and the best disciples are those who yield the most.-And that applies not only to disciples, but to soldiers and warriors as well. (20)

Be encouraged, for the time is near when I will descend from above with a mighty shout! Every eye will see, and every ear will hear as I rock the Earth in that day of great and final victory, final triumph, final overcoming, as we are joined once again, never more to part.

It won't be long now, My loves! The day that I have long awaited draws near, and your glory will shine from the ends of Earth and throughout the Heavens. You will shine with the glory of endurance and yieldedness. You will shine with the glory of victory. You will shine as soldiers returning from a battle victorious. You will glow with the light of victory, for in Me you will have overcome! Yes, you will shine! Not with your own light, but because of your yieldedness! You, My brave and valiant ones, will be highly honored before all nations, because you held on, as I held on. Therefore be encouraged and prepare to march on strong! (21)

- (1) Being Re-created! #3346:74,75
- (2) Sharpen Your Sword, Part 3 #3426:65
- (3) Issues, Part 17 #3480:20
- (4) Intimate Details of My Life! #3268:3,4
- (5) Rising Above! #3379:115
- (6) Living the Lord's Law of Love! Part 10 #3210:5
- (7) The Era of Action! Part 1 #3288:47
- (8) The Board Vision, Part 3 #3387:150,152
- (9) Forward, Always Forward! #3479:195
- (10) Issues, Part 3 #3302:100-102
- (11) Believing Prophecy! #3130:231
- (12) The Road to Commitment #3064:259
- (13) Mama's Visit to Central America #3509:219, 220
- (14) More on the Shakeup 2000! #3262:279
- (15) Overcoming the Generation Gap! #3161:136
- (16) Praise Your Way to Victory! #3449:82-89

- (17) Prayer Drive January 2008 #36560:78
- (18) Turning Weakness Into Strength! #3247:41
- (19) Words To Meditate On #3622:57
- (20) The Art of Dependence #3537:46
- (21) A Feast-time Token of Love! #3226:35,36