



FOUNDATIONS

BOOK SEVEN

Mature

A blueprint for building a relationship with God

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.”
- Philippians 3:13-15:

FOUNDATIONS

A blueprint for building a relationship with God

Mature

BOOK SEVEN OF THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES

Adapted from the Search Ministries discipleship curriculum.
Used by permission.

All the books in THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES:

BOOK ONE: DISCOVER

BOOK TWO: RESPOND

BOOK THREE: BIBLE STUDY

BOOK FOUR: PRAYER

BOOK FIVE: FELLOWSHIP

BOOK SIX: EVANGELISM

BOOK SEVEN: MATURE

For more information, visit www.CollegeGolfFellowship.com
or contact us at info@collegegolffellowship.com.

Table of CONTENTS



Overview	1
Introduction	3
Book Seven – Mature	4
Ch. 1 – Defining a fully-devoted follower of Christ	5
Ch. 2 – Great Commandment Living	9
Ch. 3 – Great Commission Living – Part I	17
Ch. 4 – Great Commission Living – Part II	27
Review and Application	33

OVERVIEW

Congratulations! If you are reading this, then you have completed BOOK SIX in the FOUNDATIONS SERIES.

Remember, FOUNDATIONS is a seven book series that lays the foundation for the Christian Life and is a blueprint for building a relationship with God. DISCOVER was the first book of the series that described how you can begin a relationship with God. RESPOND was the second book and helped us understand what it means to respond to the Gospel by trusting in the Lordship of Jesus and surrendering to the power of the Holy Spirit. The remaining books have give us practical ways to respond to the Gospel through the following four spiritual disciplines: BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, and EVANGELISM, as the following diagram shows:



As we move forward in this series, we will continue to use this diagram to remind us that Jesus Christ is the axel of the wheel and very center of the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is the hub of the wheel that secures our relationship with God, keeps us connected to Jesus, empowers us to trust His Lordship, and motivates us to respond to the Gospel by living a life of faith and obedience. The four spokes in the wheel - Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, and Evangelism - represent things we can do in response to what God has already done for us in Christ. We call these activities spiritual disciplines, and they help us grow in relationship with God. The Holy Spirit will give each believer a growing desire to pursue these disciplines, helping us grow in spiritual maturity and accomplish God's purposes.

INTRODUCTION

This is BOOK SEVEN: MATURE and the final book in the Foundations Series. In this final book, we will present a picture of what a fully-devoted follower of Christ looks like and how we can continue to respond to the Gospel on an ongoing basis so that we keep maturing in our relationship with God. In the last four books of The Foundations Series - Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship, and Evangelism - we learned four critically important spiritual disciplines of the Christian faith that can help keep us growing and maturing.

Beyond just implementing these disciplines, Christian maturity also includes a mindset shift. We must move beyond just thinking about ourselves and onto thinking about investing in others. Jesus poured His life into twelve people, and those twelve people changed the world. Jesus' great commission tells us to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). He did not say go and make converts. His plan to see the world transformed by the Gospel was to send out maturing followers of Jesus who would invest in others by discipling them in such a way that they would raise up others who would multiply themselves in the next generation until disciples were made throughout the entire world!

You are reading this final book because a disciple-maker took the time to invest in you and equip you to make more disciples! This has been the plan all along. You cannot get to the end of this series and just think, "I'm glad I learned a lot of good information about the Christian life." You must take what you have learned and pass it on! That is what maturing followers of Jesus do: they invest relationally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make more disciples who multiply themselves in others!

Book SEVEN



Maturing in the Gospel: Becoming a fully-devoted follower of Christ

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where are you in your spiritual journey and how would you like to keep maturing?
2. How would you define a fully-devoted follower of Christ?
3. Who do you know that fits this description?

OVERVIEW:

If we have placed our trust in Jesus Christ and have received forgiveness of sin, salvation, and eternal life, then we should be motivated to keep maturing in our faith and seek to become a fully-devoted follower of Christ who seeks to obey the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

In this final book, we will discuss the following topics as we present a picture of what a fully-devoted follower of Christ looks like and how we can keep maturing unto this end:

1. A fully-devoted follower of Christ
2. Great Commandment Living: Loving God with our Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength
3. Great Commission Living – Part I: Making Disciples
4. Great Commission Living – Part II: Investing in God’s Kingdom

Chapter One: Maturing in the Gospel

A FULLY-DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

How would you describe a fully-devoted follower of Christ?

Are we to act a certain way, believe certain things, or exhibit certain character traits? Are beliefs, behaviors, or what we are becoming more important? A maturing follower of Christ should be growing in each of these ways. If you think this sounds a bit daunting, you are not alone. And, if it was up to you, you would never be able to make yourself mature by working really hard to manage your thoughts, beliefs, and behaviors. However, God desires His followers to grow and mature, and He takes full responsibility to complete the maturity process in each one of us.

How do the following verses describe Christian maturity and what a fully-devoted follower of Christ should look like? Notice who is responsible for the results?

- **Romans 8:29-30**
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**
- **Philippians 1:6**

These verses make it abundantly clear that God's desire for every believer is to become like Jesus, and He will not stop working in us until we are transformed and conformed into the image of His Son. This is called ***SPIRITUAL FORMATION***.

The goal of the Christian life is to be spiritually formed or molded in such a way that we look and act like Jesus – growing in His **character** and **competency**. Therefore, as we mature in Christ, people should see Jesus in us and through us in ever increasing ways.

If God promises to complete what He started in each one of us, what is our responsibility? What do the following verses say we can do to participate in this spiritual formation process?

- **Philippians 2:12-13**
- **Ephesians 4:1, 22-24**
- **Hebrews 12:1-2**
- **James 1:2-4**

These verses clearly teach that we are to actively participate in our spiritual formation. What do you think this looks like practically?

In order to help us better understand this spiritual formation process, we must understand the three phases of our salvation mentioned in the Bible:



The chart on the next page will help us better understand the beautiful reality of these three phases of God’s salvation process, as we seek to mature in the character and competency of Christ.

THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROCESS

Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Past Tense: Declared Holy	Present Tense: Growing in Holiness	Future Tense: Holiness is Completed
Not guilty of sin	Not controlled by sin	Sin not present
God has saved you from the penalty of sin	God is saving you from the power of sin	God will save you from the presence of sin
Receive grace by repentant faith	Respond to grace by repentant faith & obedience	Receive completed work of grace by persevering faith
Positional Righteousness Rom. 3:22-24, 4:4-5, 5:1 Gal. 2:16, 3:24; Tit. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 5:21	Progressive Righteousness Rom. 6:11-14, 19-22; Tit. 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:13-16; 2 Pet. 1:3-11	Permanent Righteousness Rom. 8:16-18, 29-30; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:2; 1 John 3:2; Jude 1:24; Rev. 21:2-4

What stands out from this chart? How do these truths help us understand God's role versus our role in the spiritual formation process?



If we forget that God was fully responsible for our justification in the past and will be fully responsible for our glorification in the future, we may think we can still earn our salvation. This may lead to us wrongly working **for** our justification, instead of **from** it, thus keeping us from **resting in** and **responding to** the finished work of Christ. A correct view of our salvation process will help us overcome both **despair** when we fall short and **pride** when we succeed, because ultimately it is God working in us and through us to bring to completion our spiritual formation.

How does this work itself out practically on a daily basis as we seek to respond to the Gospel and mature in our faith?

Though God is sovereign and in control of all things, He gives us free will to trust and obey Him or not. Therefore, we have a choice every day to trust in the Lordship of Christ and walk in obedience to His will or not. When we choose not to obey Him, we now have another choice to surrender to the power of the Spirit, who convicts us of sin and calls us to repent, or not (see *BOOK TWO: RESPOND* for review).

As we see the brokenness of our sin and the beauty of our Savior, who was willing to die for us and forgive us, we should develop a growing desire to want to please Him, obey Him, and repent quickly when we fall short. This leads to spiritual formation and maturity.

Remember, our sovereign God starts the salvation process (***justification***), and He will complete the process (***glorification***), but we are invited to participate in the process on an ongoing moment-by-moment basis by trusting in the Lordship of Christ and surrendering to the power of the Holy Spirit (***sanctification***).

So, how do we know if we are actually maturing in the Gospel? If the goal is to look and act more like Jesus, what should the spiritual markers be?

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT & THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. Am I maturing in the way I love God with my heart, soul, mind, and strength?

2. Am I maturing in the way I make disciples?



Though we will never “arrive” on this side of heaven and live out these two statements perfectly, these should be the markers we should return to over and over again as we seek to follow Jesus and mature in the Gospel.

Chapter Two: Great Commandment Living LOVING GOD WITH OUR HEART, SOUL, MIND, AND STRENGTH

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and
 with all your soul and with all your mind
 and with all your strength.”

- Mark 12:30

What does it mean to practically live out the Great Commandment on a daily basis?

Notice that Jesus doesn't say the greatest commandment is “do” more out of “duty” or “obligation”. He says love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. In other words, “delight” in our Savior and Lord with every fiber of our being! Remember, we become like whatever we behold, love, or worship (2 Cor. 3:18). So, if the goal of Christian maturity is to look and act more like Jesus, we need to focus our attention on Him, see how beautiful He truly is, and respond by loving Him with all that we are. We accomplish this by putting ourselves in places that stir our affections for God and avoiding places that rob our affections for Him.

Make it personal...

1. What stirs your affections for the Lord?

2. What robs your affections for the Lord?

The rest of this chapter will unpack what it means to grow in loving God with all our **HEART, SOUL, MIND, & STRENGTH...**

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART

Belonging to Jesus - Identity Development

In the Bible, our heart refers to our mind, will, and emotion and is the motivational center for human action (Luke 6:45). However, Jeremiah tells us that our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately sick (Jer. 17:9). Therefore, we must not “follow our heart”, as some have suggested. Instead, we must receive a new heart and a new identity from the Lord (Ezekiel 36:26) and remind our heart that we belong to God. As our heart embraces our God-given identity, we can then properly relate to God as our good Father and respond to Him by loving Him in faith and obedience.

How do the following verses help us properly understand and respond to our God-given identity by loving God with all our heart?

- **1 John 3:1-3**
- **Romans 8:15-17**
- **1 Peter 2:9-10**



WARNING: Though identity development matters, we must remember that understanding this truth does not equal Christian maturity alone. We must also respond to the Gospel by living out our God-given identity. As our heart falls more deeply in love with our Savior, we should have a growing motivation to live a life of obedience.

How are you maturing in the way you love God with all your heart? How would you like to keep growing in this area?



LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR SOUL

Becoming like Jesus - Character Development

In the Bible, our soul refers to the very essence of who we are on the inside and is reflected by our character. Our character is revealed when no one is watching or when we are under pressure, stress, or trial. God wants to grow our character so that we become like Jesus. As we surrender to the power of the Holy Spirit, we continue to grow in Christ-like character and bear the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-23).

What do the following verses say about character development as we seek to become like Jesus and love God with all our soul?

- **Ephesians 4:1-3**
- **Ephesians 5:1-2**
- **Romans 5:3-5**



WARNING: Though character development matters, we must remember that good character alone does not necessary equal Christian maturity. However, when we trust in Christ for salvation, the Holy Spirit begins His sanctifying work in us, thus growing us in Christlikeness. We are not loved more by God when we clean our life up. Instead, we are loved and accepted by God unconditionally in Christ, and this should stir our affections for God and give us the freedom and motivation to pursue Him with all our soul.

How are you maturing in the way you love God with all your soul? How would you like to keep growing in this area?

Think on this...

ILLUSTRATION

“Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” - 1 Peter 1:6-7

Remember, our true character is revealed when no one is watching or when we are under pressure, stress, or trial. In order to refine our character and make us look more like Jesus, the Bible says that God tests our faith.

In order to get pure gold, a refiner must melt the gold in a cauldron over fire. As he turns up the heat, the impurities in the gold rise to the top, and he skims them off. He then turns up the heat even hotter and repeats the process until all the impurities have been skimmed off the top. How does he know when he is done refining the gold? When he can see his reflection in the gold!

Likewise, God allows the trials of life to refine our character and make us pure. As the heat from the fiery trials of life bring the impurities in our life to the top, Jesus skims them off. As He keeps allowing the heat to be turned up in our life, the impurities keep rising to the top, and He keeps skimming them off. When does He know He is done? When he can finally see His own character reflected in us! God is molding us into the image of Jesus, and He will not stop working until He completes this sanctification process (Phil. 1:6)!





LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR MIND

Believing like Jesus - Knowledge Development

The Bible often uses our mind to refer to our thoughts, beliefs, and knowledge about God. A.W. Tozer said, “what comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” Clearly, what we believe and think about God (our theology) will have a huge influence in how we relate to Him. This means we must spend time studying God’s Word, so that we can know, apply, and share with others the foundational truths of the Christian faith. Maturing in what we believe and why we believe it will help us grow in loving God with all our mind.

What do the following verses say about our knowledge and beliefs about God, as we seek to grow in loving Him with all our mind?

- **2 Timothy 4:2-4**
- **2 Peter 3:17-18**
- **Romans 12:2**



WARNING: Though knowledge development matters, we must remember that more information about God does not necessarily equal Christian maturity alone. Many people over the years have had a lot of knowledge about God, but they did not have a relationship with Him. However, as the Gospel transforms us from the inside out, we should continually desire to grow in our knowledge of the Lord, so that we can learn to love Him more completely with all our minds.

How are you maturing in the way you love God with all your mind? How would you like to keep growing in this area?

Think on this...

ILLUSTRATION

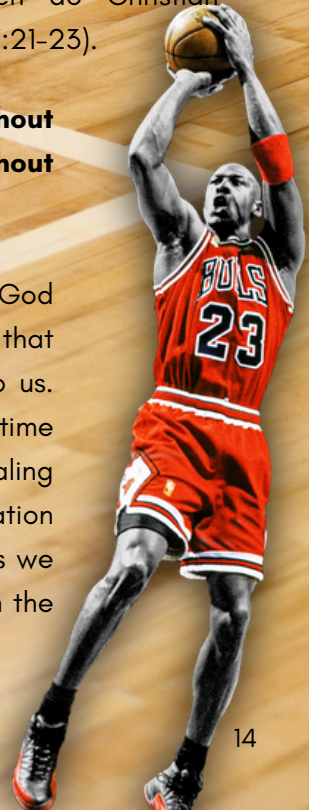
“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” – John 17:3

If a person knows a lot about a professional athlete, that is not the same as knowing the person or having a relationship with him. For example, we can know Michael Jordan led the Bulls to 6 NBA Championships, played in 14 All-Star games, and won 5 MVP awards, but that doesn't mean we know Michael Jordan or have a relationship with him.

There is no difference with God. We can recount numerous Bible stories, list attributes of God, and even teach biblical doctrines, but that doesn't mean we know the Lord. We can read through the entire Bible, have correct theology, and even describe biblical terms, and not have a genuine relationship with the living God. We can even “do” Christian things in the name of Christ, but not know Jesus (Matt. 7:21-23).

Let me be clear: we can know about God without knowing God, but we cannot know God without knowing about God.

In order to mature in the Gospel, we must learn to love God with all our mind by spending time studying His word so that we can truly know Him as He has revealed Himself to us. Intimacy with our Savior only comes from spending time with Him, and the Bible is His primary source of revealing Himself to us. Nevertheless, we must let the information about God move from our head down to our heart. As we do so, the beauty of who God is will transform us from the inside out with ever increasing glory!



LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH

Behaving like Jesus - Lifestyle Development



The Bible often uses our strength to refer to our actions, behaviors, or lifestyle in relationship with our obedience to God and His commands. As our love for God increases, our desires and behaviors begin to change. The Gospel motivates us to engage in spiritual disciplines so that we can continue to mature and walk in obedience. Notice the beautiful cycle: as we mature in our love for God, our desire to put into practice these disciplines increases. And as we do these things, we are putting ourselves in places where the Holy Spirit can transform us, thus giving us an increasing desire to walk in obedience.

What do the following verses say about our behaviors when it comes to loving God with all our strength?

- **John 14:15**
- **1 John 2:3-6**
- **James 2:17-22**



WARNING: We must remember that correct behavior alone does not equal Christian maturity. The Lord does not just want behavioral modification. However, as the Gospel penetrates our hearts, a maturing follower of Christ should respond and be motivated to pursue certain behaviors in order to live a life of obedience and show our love for Him through our actions.

How are you maturing in the way you love God with all your strength?
How would you like to keep growing in this area?

Belonging → Becoming → Believing → Behaving



It is important to note that spiritual formation is not just growth in one of these areas alone. Maturity in Christ is wholistic and multi-faceted, and growth in one of these areas will impact and influence growth in each of the other areas as we learn to respond to the Gospel on an ongoing basis.

For example, as we believe right theology about God, this should impact our view of how we belong to God and how we relate to Him relationally. A right view of our identity as a child of God should then lead to a correct motivation for obedience and Christian behaviors. As we participate in these new behaviors, we will be putting ourselves in places where the Holy Spirit can work in our soul, grow our character, and impact who we are becoming in Christ. This is Gospel-centered transformation!

It is important to note that sometimes beliefs will lead to behavioral changes, but at other times new behaviors will lead to a better understand of biblical beliefs. At other times, new behaviors lead to becoming more Christ-like, but sometimes God grows our character which then leads us to respond by changing our behaviors.

As you can see, spiritual formation is not simple and linear. Instead, it is often messy, unpredictable, confusing, and even painful. Yet at the same time, it is incredibly beautiful, freeing, and life-changing. And don't forget, it includes hard work, but it is always a free gift of God's grace. It requires effort, but you can never earn it. We must participate, but God is 100% responsible for the results!

So, as we move forward in seeking to mature in the Gospel, let us examine our heart, soul, mind, and strength and recognize that God wants to grow our love for Him in each of these areas. And remember, God will not stop working until we are complete in Christ!

MEMORY VERSES:

Mark 12:30

Rom. 5:3-4

Rom. 12:2

John 14:15

Chapter Three: Great Commission Living
 PART ONE: MAKING DISCIPLES

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Matthew 28:18-19

What was Jesus really saying to His disciples then, and what does that mean for us today?

The main verb in this passage is **“make disciples”**. The other three verbs -- “go”, “baptizing”, and “teaching” -- are participles which imply continuous action that support the main command. Therefore, if translated literally, the passage should read: “As you are going, as you are baptizing, and as you are teaching, **make disciples!**”



Therefore, Jesus is calling every one of His followers to **“make disciples”** as we continually do the following:

1. **“Go”** and build relationships in our spheres of influence,
2. **“Baptize”** and help others root their identity in Christ,
3. **“Teach”** others how to trust and follow Jesus!

If we call ourselves followers of Jesus, we should not only engage in the evangelism process (which we discussed in Book 6), but we should also engage in the discipleship process by helping others grow, mature, and multiply themselves in others. As we seek to grow in loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we should also grow in our desire to help others do the same!

This is the beautiful adventure Jesus has invited us to be a part of:

we are to be disciples who make more disciples!

This has always been Jesus's plan from the beginning. The question is will we allow God to use us in this disciple-making process?

How does it make you feel to think that Jesus wants to use you as a disciple-maker?

What do you think this looks like practically?

From the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus called people to follow him as his disciples and to participate in His mission to be "fishers of men". Notice that he didn't say to people, "Come, follow me, and I will help you grow." He didn't have to because growth and maturity will happen as we go and make disciples.

"When we start discipling others, we will actually grow more than those we are discipling!"

- David Platt

The rest of this chapter will give important biblical principles that will help us as we seek to become disciple-makers...

1. Discipleship focuses on formation, not information

How do the following verses describe the goal of discipleship?

- **Galatians 4:19**

- **Romans 8:29**

As we discussed in the last chapter, knowledge and information about God is important, but it is not the ultimate goal of Christian maturity. Spiritual formation is the goal, and God promises to complete this goal by conforming us into the image of Jesus, so that we look and act like Him.

In the following verses, what did Jesus do with His followers that spiritually formed them into disciple-makers?

- **Mark 3:14**

- **Acts 4:13**

He simply spent time with them! Of course, He preached amazing sermons and taught them important biblical truths throughout His ministry, but ultimately Jesus simply lived life with them, loved them perfectly, served them sacrificially, and modeled what a life completely surrendered to the Father looked like. Then, He sent them out to do the same!

“More is caught than taught”

- Charles Swindoll

Here is the model Jesus used to show how to make disciples. Notice, he did not just impart information. Instead, he lived life with His disciples and watch His life get formed in them!



*“The goal of spiritual formation is not information,
but transformation.”*

- Dallas Willard



2. Discipleship happens in relationships, not programs

How do the following verses describe the relational nature of discipleship?

- **1 Thessalonians 2:7-8; 11-12**
- **1 Corinthians 4:14-17**

Don't get me wrong: listening to good sermons, reading good books, and taking good classes are helpful for spiritual growth, but these things alone do not make disciples. Let's be honest, we can barely remember a sermon from last week, let alone expect disciples to be made from listening to a sermon. However, we will never forget the people that have influenced us, especially those who have invested relationally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, modeled a lifestyle of disciple-making, and then challenged us to go and make more disciples.

Why is this true?

Because God is a relational being as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and He created us in His own image as relational beings. Jesus then left heaven in order to become a human being so that He could model relational disciple-making. He didn't just send a sermon or a manual to tell us how to make disciples, He actually sent Himself in order to show us how to make disciples. After three years, He then commissioned His disciples to make more disciples by investing relationally with the Gospel and teaching others how to do the same thing. Two-thousand years later we are still doing the very same thing!

3.

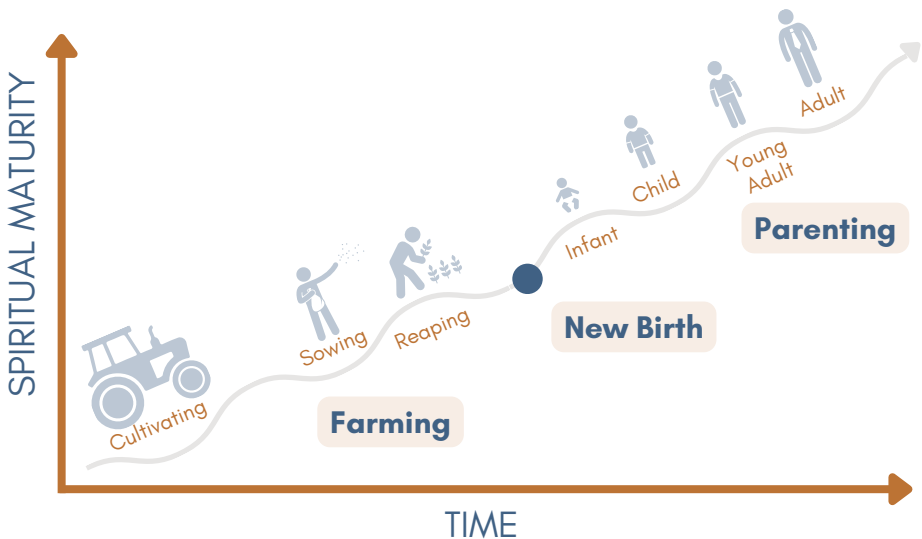
Discipleship is a process, not an event

How do the following verses describe discipleship as a process and who is responsible for the results?

- **Matthew 13:4-9, 18-23**
- **Ephesians 4:11-16**
- **1 Corinthians 3:5-7**

Similar to evangelism, discipleship is a process, and God is responsible for the results. In reality, evangelism is just a subset of discipleship, as we participate in God's spiritual formation process. As we build relationships, share our faith with non-believers as well as believers, we are engaging in the discipleship process.

THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS



4.

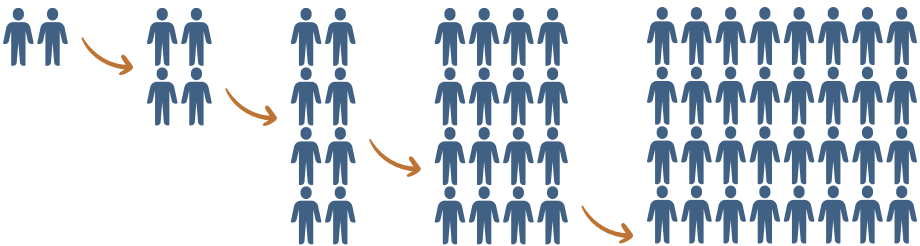
Discipleship is about multiplication, not addition

Remember, all healthy living organisms grow, reproduce, and eventually multiply! Disciple-making is no different. How do the following verses describe the multiplication effect of discipleship?

- **Mark 4:20, 26-32**
- **John 15:5, 8, 16**
- **2 Timothy 2:2**

How many generations of people is Paul talking about in this verse?

How many disciples would you have if 2 people each discipled 2 people each year after 20 years?



After 20 years you would have.... **1,048,576 Disciples!**

However, if 1 person preached the Gospel and had a 1,000 people trust Christ each year, but these new converts were not discipled and did not go and make more disciples, how many converts would there be after 20 years? → **Only 20,000!!!**

Think on this...

ILLUSTRATION

SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION

In order to be a healthy disciple-maker, we must continue to have people pouring into us while also pouring into others. The Sea of Galilee has many tributaries flowing into it, giving it life. It also has the Jordan River flowing out of it, as it gives life to others. However, the Dead Sea has the Jordan River flowing into it, but because it is 1,300 feet below sea level, it is stagnant and nothing flows out of it. Without resources flowing both in and out, nothing lives in the Dead Sea - it is truly DEAD!

Are you more like the Sea of Galilee or the Dead Sea? Are you getting poured into, while also pouring into others as a healthy disciple-maker? Or, are you stagnant and not pouring into other, and thus DEAD?



5.

Discipleship is multifaceted, not one-dimensional

Remember, God promises in His word to transform His followers into the image of Jesus. His plan to accomplish this goal is to use ordinary people like you and me to make disciples by investing relationally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help them live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This discipleship process is multifaceted and will never end on this side of heaven. The simple question for us all is this: will we follow Jesus' call and embrace the journey by joining Him by making more disciples?

How do we know if we are doing the right thing? Here are the markers:

Are the people we are discipling growing in the way they love God with all their...

HEART: *Belonging like Jesus - Identity Development*


SOUL: *Becoming like Jesus - Character Development*

MIND: *Believing like Jesus - Knowledge Development*

STRENGTH: *Behaving like Jesus - Lifestyle Development*

And ultimately, are the people we are discipling...

Being sent out to make more disciples?



“You teach what you know, but you reproduce what you are.”

- Howard Hendricks

“Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

 **MEMORY VERSES:**

Matt. 28:19-20

2 Tim. 2:2

John 15:5

1 Thess. 2:7-8

Chapter Four: Great Commission Living

PART 2: INVESTING IN GOD'S KINGDOM

The Bible is clear that God will not stop maturing you until you look and act like Jesus. In this last chapter, we will look at a few final disciple-making qualities that God wants to grow in us all.

1. Disciple-makers live for eternal purposes

According to the following verses, what two things will live forever?

- **1 Peter 1:23-25**
- **Matthew 25:46**

As we think about being a disciple-maker, what do the following verses say we should be focused on and living for?

- **Colossians 3:2**
- **2 Corinthians 4:18**
- **Matthew 6:33**

So, if we are going to live for eternal purposes, what should we be investing in?

GOD'S WORD



PEOPLE



Think on this...

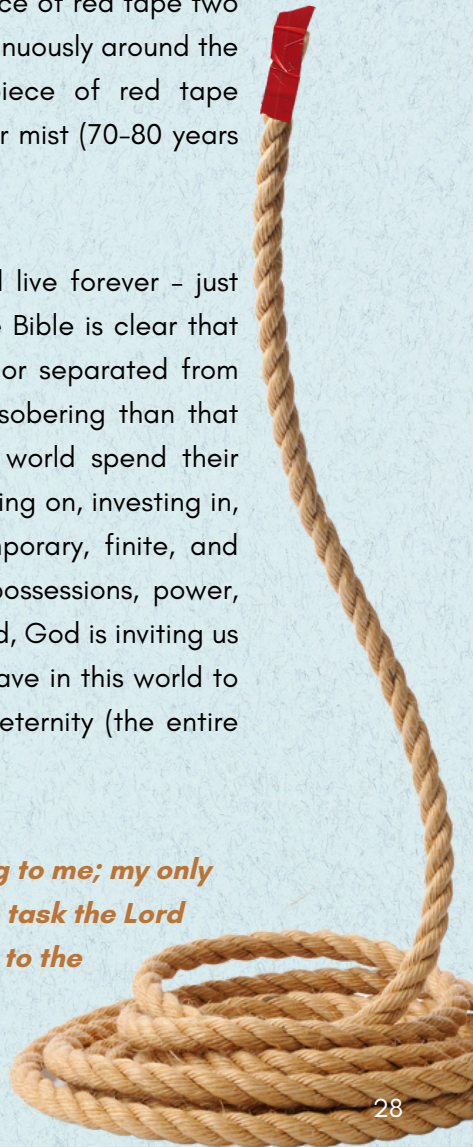
ILLUSTRATION

WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

Image that you are holding one end of super long rope that wraps around the entire face of the earth, and it goes on wrapping continuously with no end. Now, on the end of the rope that you are holding imagine a tiny piece of red tape two inches long. The entire rope that wraps continuously around the world represents eternity, and the tiny piece of red tape represents your life in this world - a vapor or mist (70-80 years if you are fortunate)!

Remember, **GOD'S WORD** and **PEOPLE** will live forever - just like this rope that goes on continuously. The Bible is clear that people will either live with God in heaven or separated from God in hell - **FOREVER!** Now, even more sobering than that truth is the fact that most people in this world spend their entire life (the little red piece of tape) focusing on, investing in, and pursuing only the things that are temporary, finite, and passing away (i.e. work, money, hobbies, possessions, power, pleasure, retirement, etc.). On the other hand, God is inviting us to spend the short vapor of a life that we have in this world to prepare for, invest in, and look forward to eternity (the entire rest of the rope)! What will you choose?

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." - Acts 20:24



2.

Disciple-makers invest the following assets in eternal things

While we live in this temporary world, what assets has God given each of us to steward and invest for eternal purposes?



Asset #1: Our Time

What do the following verses teach us about how valuable our time is and how we should invest it?

- **Proverbs 27:1**
- **James 4:13-14**
- **Colossians 4:5-6**
- **Philippians 1:20-25**

The Bible clearly teaches us that the life we live on earth is temporary, but the life we live in eternity is forever. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Will we spend the finite number of days we have on earth investing in the things that will last forever - God's Word & people?

What is one way you can better invest your time as you think about maturing as a disciple-maker?



Asset #2: Our Talent

What do the following verses teach us about how we are to invest our talents, gifts, and ultimately anything we do?

- **Matthew 25:14-29**
- **Romans 12:6-8**
- **Colossians 3:17, 23**

What are the gifts and talents God has given you that could be used for His glory?

What is one way you can better invest these gifts and talents as you think about maturing as a disciple-maker?

“Throughout the course of your life, you’re going to give your life to something. You will. All people do. They give their lives to pleasure, to possessions, to the attainment of popularity, or to the acquisition of more power. But always to something.”

- Walk Across the Room



Asset #3: Our Treasure

What do the following verses teach us about how we are to view our treasure and how we should invest our monetary resources?

- **1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19**
- **Matthew 6:19-21**
- **Corinthians 9:6-8**



The Bible has over 500 verses on the subject of prayer and over 500 verses on the subject of faith, but over 2300 verses on the subject of treasure, money, and possessions.

Why do you think that is?

How have you seen the “love of money” become a problem in life? How have you seen money invested well and used for building God’s Kingdom?

How can you grow in generosity and be more intentional in the way you invest your treasure as you think about maturing as a disciple-maker and living out the Great Commandment and Great Commission?



Remember, God has given us everything we have – our time, our talents, and our treasure. We are not the owners. We are simply asked to steward and invest these resources, and there is no better place to invest them than in the things that will last forever

GOD'S WORD



PEOPLE



As you think about investing in God's eternal kingdom, which of the three assets (time, talent, or treasure) do you feel you are most faithful in stewarding? Which asset is God calling you to invest more faithfully?

“When you leave this world, will you be known as one who accumulated treasures on earth that you couldn't keep? Or will you be recognized as one who invested treasures in heaven that you couldn't lose?”

- Randy Alcorn



Foundations Book Seven

REVIEW AND APPLICATION

In this last book, we described what maturing in the Gospel should look like and defined what a fully-devoted follower of Christ is growing into – someone who exhibits the character and competency of Jesus. This person should be maturing in living out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In other words, this person is continually growing in their love for the Lord with all their heart (belonging to Jesus), soul (becoming like Jesus), mind (believing like Jesus), and strength (behaving like Jesus), as well as, continually making disciples who multiply themselves in others.

Review Questions:

1. How did the concepts in this book help you understand what maturity in Christ should look like?
2. What stood out from the breakdown of what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? In what areas would you like to see more growth and maturity?
3. What stood out from God’s discipleship plan? How did it make you feel to think that Jesus wants to use you as a disciple-maker?
4. How would you like to grow in the ways you are investing your time, talents, and treasure for eternal purposes?

“Discipleship is not an option. Jesus says if anyone would come after me, he must follow me.”

- Tim Keller

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

If you have gotten this far, it is most likely because a disciple-maker took the time to invest in you with the goal of training you up and sending you out to make more disciples. This has been the plan all along. You cannot get to the end of this series and just think, "I'm glad I learned a lot of good information about the Christian life." You must take what you have learned and pass it on (2 Timothy 2:2)! Maturing followers of Jesus invest relationally with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make more disciples who multiply themselves in others!

Are you ready to embrace this challenge and grow into the person God has made you to be?

Are you ready to invest your time, your talents, and your treasure in eternal things?

Are you ready to be a disciple-maker?

If you are a little apprehensive...or even terrified? That's ok...even Jesus' disciples felt the same way when He gave them the Great Commission! But Jesus prepared them, equipped them, empowered them, and then he sent them out to change the world. And God wants to do the same thing with you. And never forget, God is responsible for the results, and He has promised to complete what He started in you and the people with whom you disciple!

Turn the page to learn more about how to start the discipleship process with someone else...

STARTING A DISCIPLESHIP RELATIONSHIP

Here are a few simple steps to begin the discipleship process with someone (or a group):



Identify who you think would benefit from going through The Foundations Series.



Start praying for an opportunity to ask them if they would like to go through the series with you.



Ask them if they would be interested in going through a series with you that helps people learn the foundations of the Christian faith.



If they say yes, find a time that works and simply go through a chapter together each week.



When you finish going through the series, invite them to take someone else through it and watch the discipleship process multiply disciple-makers for generations to come!

Remember the principles of discipleship that we studied in this book. The goal is not just to get through a chapter and impart information to another person. The goal is to be spiritually formed into the image of Jesus. Therefore, spend time building a relationship, share your lives with one another, pray together, encourage one another, invite the Holy Spirit to work in your lives, and trust the Lord to complete what He started in each one of you (Phil. 1:6)!



Have more questions?

WWW.COLLEGEGOLFFELLOWSHIP.COM

NOTES AND RESPONSES

College Golf Fellowship

College Golf Fellowship exists to encourage you in golf, life, and faith. We desire to come alongside you and show you what an authentic relationship with Jesus looks like. We hope this series helps you lay a solid foundation for your entire life.

THE FOUNDATIONS SERIES

BOOK ONE: DISCOVER

BOOK TWO: RESPOND

BOOK THREE: BIBLE STUDY

BOOK FOUR: PRAYER

BOOK FIVE: FELLOWSHIP

BOOK SIX: EVANGELISM

BOOK SEVEN: MATURE



Golf. Life. Faith.

@CollegeGolfFellowship



Scan to visit
our website

