

# WELCOME HOME WEEK 3 “GROW”

– PATRICK WALTON / 11.5.2017

---

Psalm 92:12-15 | Philippians 3:12-14

INTRODUCTION—*Perfection isn't realistic or attainable*

## WHAT DOES DISCIPLESHIP MEAN?

Of the 267 references to the word DISCIPLE in the New Testament, 261 are the Greek word Mathetes (Math-e-tas)—this simply means the *pupil, follower, or student* of someone. Disciple isn't a Christian word, but actually something that describes every person at all times (*HGTV, rock music, food, or clothing*).

A Christian disciple is someone who has CHOSEN to follow Jesus, is *being* CHANGED by Jesus, and is COMMITTED to Jesus' mission. It's a life of *growing* and *adherence, adoration and action*.

The two-fold nature of discipleship is that you are first A DISCIPLE (our inheritance) who then goes and MAKES DISCIPLES (His inheritance).

**Romans 8:16-17**     *“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”* (What's His is ours)

**Ephesians 1:18**     *“...the eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...”* (What's ours is His)

We don't have choose if we were going to sit (intimacy, *adoration*) or if we're going to serve (mission, *action*)—*the goal is to sit in the midst of serving*.

**Song of Songs 7:11-13**     *“Come, my beloved, **LET US** go forth to the field; **LET US** lodge in the villages. **LET US** get up early to the vineyards; **LET US** see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. **THERE** I will give you my love...And at **OUR GATES** are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved.”*

## GROWING AS DISCIPLES (our inheritance in Christ)

Growing as disciples that are being CHANGED by Jesus isn't about perfection, but about forgetting the past, and reaching ahead for more as we journey into maturity—it's about progressing, though we don't attain it.

**Philippians 3:12-13**     *“Not that I have already attained, or am perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things behind me and reaching forward to those things which are ahead...”*

As disciples of Jesus, God would have us more focused on REACHING more than ATTAINING. If we focus on attaining, we will often become discouraged with the little we have, but if we are reaching we are filled with hope about how much more is available.

The motivation of our GROWTH as disciples comes not from our discipline, but from God's delight in us.

**John 15:15**     *“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **ABIDE** in My love.”* (41/44)

## WELCOME HOME WEEK 3 "GROW"

– PATRICK WALTON / 11.5.2017

Page 2

John, who wrote the Gospel of John, 5 times refers to himself as the DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20) This revelation empowers us to run towards God, not away from Him, in weakness.

God treats the sincere but weak disciple differently than the rebellious disciple:

**Luke 22:31-34; Matt. 26:34,40-41** *"...Simon (Peter)...Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren. Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death...Jesus said...this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times...the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

God's intention for us as disciples is that we would sit before Him and His word, reading, talking to Him and allowing Him to CHANGE us—through this journey we become COMMITTED to Jesus' mission to be disciple makers.

### GROWING AS DISCIPLE MAKERS (Christ's inheritance in us)

In the Old Testament the priests were instructed to wash their hands and their feet in the bronze laver (Ex. 30:17-21) every time they came near to minister to God on behalf of the people. Jesus, Paul and James used this analogy four times (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26; Titus 2:5; James 1:22-25), speaking about the Bible's ability to wash us as disciples and prepare us as disciple makers.

Growing as disciple makers is all about reproduction—the ability to reproduce Christ-like people through Christ-like people.

**Hebrews 4:12** *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

God's Word is powerful, sharp, and active, and this why we have to allow it to pierce our hearts before we are able to effectively wield it in the lives of others. Jesus and Peter both had a sword—Peter initially used it to injure but Jesus used it to heal (John 18:10-11; Acts 2).

As we allow God's word to work in us, we see/experience the kindness of God with our sinful nature, and it gives us compassion as we work with and handle the sinful nature of others (Gal. 6:1).

**Revelation 10:8-11** *"...(John) Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth. So, I went...And he said to me, take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth. Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, you must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings."*

### CULTURAL NORMS AT IHOPNW

In order for us to GROW as DISCIPLES who MAKE DISCIPLES of JESUS we have to PRACTICE specific things:

Bible Reading—Prayer—Solitude—Fasting (1 day a week)—Rest—Corporate Prayer—Reading books—W/others