

DIAGNOSING THE NEED

In our curriculum and conferences, books and articles, we have embraced an ill-defined discipleship process. Though sincerely motivated, most miss the target and produce inferior results.

RATIONAL/BEHAVIORAL MODELS ARE SIMPLY NOT WORKING!

They start at the wrong point which guarantees a wrong result. In theological terms, they are rooted in anthropology (the nature of man) instead of pneumatology (the nature of the Spirit). These models call on the disciple to *know* and *do*: rational knowledge (learning, memorization, course work) and behavioral activity (how to act, what to do).

- Knowledge and behavior are essential, but do not transform!
- Knowledge stops short of the Holy Spirit's destination of loving God and loving others.
- Behavioral effort (doing more or behaving better) cancels grace and creates Pharisees.

What's missing is the imperative of life in the Spirit, experiencing the presence and the power of the living God.

- Do we have the courage to STOP, BACK UP, and START AGAIN...with *ministering to the Lord* and *loving our God*?
- Must we de-construct discipleship as it exists today, exchanging rational/behavioral models for relational/experiential models?
- Doctors diagnose patients from empirical evidence; then they assign a treatment.
- Rule One: If the treatment is killing the patient, stop the treatment. *Church, our treatment is killing the patient.*

DISCERNING THE SOLUTION

This Spirit-empowered, relational framework would propose a transforming journey for all ages and stages of spiritual development, where the Holy Spirit leads us in a relational journey with God's Son, God's Word, and God's people.

Spirit-empowered discipleship will require a lifestyle of:

- Fresh encounters with Jesus –Jn. 8:12
- Frequent experiences of Scripture –Ps. 119:105
- Faithful engagement with God's people. –Mt. 5:14

"Walk while you have the light lest the darkness overtake you" Jn. 12:35.

BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND! RELATIONAL OUTCOMES

The ultimate goal of discipleship relates to the person of Jesus—to Christ-likeness. Models based upon *knowing* and *doing* are incomplete, lacking the empowerment of a life of loving and living intimately with Christ. Spirit-empowered discipleship outcomes must be relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit. Thus a Spirit-empowered discipleship outcome of *listening to and hearing God* is both relational and requires the Holy Spirit's work. (see next page).

BEGIN AT THE RIGHT PLACE! LOVING GOD, LOVING OTHERS

Relevant discipleship does not begin with doctrines or teaching, parables or principles, church polity or stewardship—but with *loving the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength*. It's this life of loving intimately that the Spirit calls us to and empowers us in. Reconsider the words of Jesus to make disciples of all nations—teaching them to observe ALL I've commanded—and then recall that this same Jesus has already declared that we should begin with the greatest commandment! (Matt. 28:19, 20; Matt. 22:37–40)

AN AGE-STAGE PROCESS: EXPLORE—EMBRACE—EXPERIENCE AND EXPRESS TRUTHS OF THE FAITH

Critical to faith formation is that our first encounter with Jesus, and His Word, and His people, is not our last!

40 Spirit-Empowered Faith outcomes have been identified organized around:

- L1-10** Loving the Lord
- W1-10** Loving the Word
- P1-10** Loving People
- M1-10** Loving God's Mission



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Spirit-Empowered Discipleship Global Task Force

Self Assessment of Discipleship Outcomes

Background: The Empowered 21 Global Task Force on discipleship is conducting feedback on age-stage outcomes in four different dimensions of what a Spirit-Empowered Disciple looks like—their identity. Critical to the development of these outcomes is the following guiding principle: *“Spirit-empowered discipleship outcomes must be relational and impossible to realize apart from a special work of the Spirit.”*

Framework: 40 possible outcomes are included in this assessment, clustered around the following four dimensions:

Four Dimensions of A Spirit-Empowered Disciple have been identified as one who: **Loves the Lord, Loves the Word, Loves People, and Loves His Mission.**

1. Instructions:

Prayerfully reflect on each of the 40 indicators and indicate (from 1 to 5) your sense of how “true” this is of you; next, note any comments or questions that seem confusing or unclear about how this outcome is stated, followed by any additional scripture references that come to mind that might support the importance of this indicator.

2. At the conclusion of each section of ten outcomes, complete any reflections on the summary question: “Other than these ten(10) outcomes—what might have been missed? Are there other outcomes that are important?”

3. Finally, consider “mapping” your 40 self-evaluation outcomes into the “Explore-Embrace-Experience-Express” process chart (see pages 18-19). Map your ten Love the Lord items using code L1-L10; map your ten Love the Word items using the code W1-W10; map your ten Love People items using the code P1-P10; map your ten Love His Mission items using the code M1-M10.

Use the following criteria in mapping:

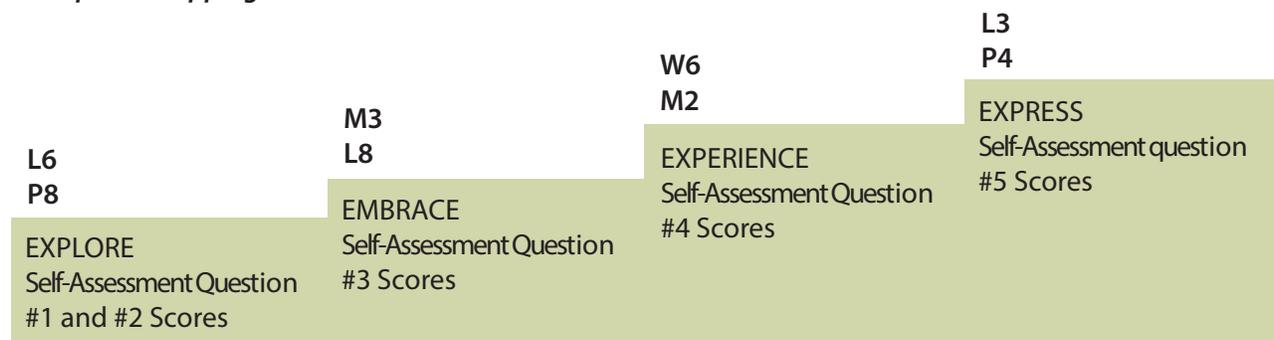
Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 5 scores as **Express**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 4 scores as **Experience**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 3 scores as **Embrace**.

Map any of your Self-Assessment Question 1 or 2 scores as **Explore**.

Example of mapping 8 of the 40 indicators:



When completed, you will have mapped (using pages 18-19) a total of all 40 outcomes—10 L’s, 10 W’s, 10 P’s, and 10 M’s.



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves the Lord Through:

L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things.

“Enter the gates with thanksgiving” (Ps. 100:4). “In everything give thanks” (1 Th. 5:18). “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (II Cor. 6:10).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment.

“Speak Lord, Your servant is listening” (Is. 3:8-9). “Mary...listening to the Lord’s word, seated at his feet” (Luke 10:38-42). “Shall I not share with Abraham what I am about to do?” (Gen. 18:17). “His anointing teaches you all things” (I Jn. 2:27).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:4,5). “Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice” (Is. 30:18). “Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...” (John 14:9).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”

“And His banner over me is love” (Song of Sol. 2:4). “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the beloved” (Eph. 1:6). “For the Lord gives to His beloved even in their sleep” (Ps. 127:2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things.

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord—he who has clean hands and a pure heart” (Ps. 24:3). “Beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (II Cor. 7:1).

“I always do the things that are pleasing to Him” (Jn. 8:29). “Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him” (Job 13:15).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves the Lord Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
L1. Practicing thanksgiving in all things.					
L2. Listening to and hearing God for direction and discernment.					
L3. Experiencing God as He really is through deepened intimacy with Him.					
L4. Rejoicing regularly in my identity as “His Beloved.”					
L5. Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves the Lord Through:

L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest.

*He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Matt. 16:23). "But you when you fast..." (Mt. 6:17). "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).
Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—*

L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship.

*"Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me..." (Ps. 103:1). "Worship the Lord with reverence" (Ps. 2:11).
"I praise Thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth..." (Mt. 11:25).
Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—*

L8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.

*"Pray at all times in the Spirit" (Eph. 6:18). "Call unto me and I will answer..." (Jer. 33:3)). "If you ask according to His will—He hears—and you will have..." (1 Jn. 5: 14-15).
Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—*

L9. Yielding to the Spirit's fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts and witness of the fruit of the Spirit.

*"For by one spirit we were all baptized into one body—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13). "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" (Acts 1:8). "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:7). "As each has received a special gift, employ it—as good stewards" (1 Pet. 4:10). "We have gifts that differ—let each exercise them" (Rom. 12:6).
Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—*

L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit's work of Christ-likeness.

*"And we who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness from glory to glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18). "As the deer pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God" (Ps. 42:1).
Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—*

Other than these ten (10) outcomes relating to "Loving the Lord" What has been missed? Other outcomes? A Spirit-Empowered Disciple loves the Lord through...



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves the Lord Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
L6. Consistent practice of self-denial, fasting, and solitude rest.					
L7. Entering often into Spirit-led praise and worship.					
L8. Disciplined, bold and believing prayer.					
L9. Yielding to the Spirit’s fullness as life in the Spirit brings supernatural intimacy with the Lord, manifestation of divine gifts and witness of the fruit of the Spirit.					
L10. Practicing the presence of the Lord, yielding to the Spirit’s work of Christ-likeness.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Loves the Word Through:

W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.

“Love the Lord thy God—love thy neighbor; upon these two commandments deepens all the law and prophets” (Mt. 22:37-40). “I delight in Your commands because I love them.” (Ps. 119:47).. “The ordinances of the Lord are pure—they are more precious than gold—sweeter than honey” (Ps. 19:9-10).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W2. Being a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation and calling.

“You yourselves are our letter—known and read by all men” (II Cor. 3:2). “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). “Husbands love your wives—cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word” (Eph. 5:26). “(women) be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be serving to their husbands, so that no one will malign the Word of God” (Tit. 2:5). Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord...” (Col. 3:23).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W3. Yielding to the scripture’s protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me.

*“I gain understanding from Your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path” (Ps. 119:104). “Be it done unto me according to Your word” (Lk. 1:38). “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word” (Ps. 119:9). “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly—and whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:16-17). *Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—**

W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word.

“I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame” (Ps. 119:46). “Preach the word; be ready in season and out to shame” (II Tim. 4:2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart.

“I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:12). “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer” (Ps. 19:14).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Loves His Word Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
W1. Frequently being led by the Spirit into deeper love for the One who wrote the Word.					
W2. Being a “living epistle” in reverence and awe as His Word becomes real in my life, vocation and calling.					
W3. Yielding to the scripture’s protective cautions and transforming power to bring life change in me.					
W4. Humbly and vulnerably sharing of the Spirit’s transforming work through the Word.					
W5. Meditating consistently on more and more of the Word hidden in the heart.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Loves His Word Through:

W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christ-likeness.

"All of us, gazing with unveiled face on the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, as from the Lord who is the Spirit" (II Cor. 3:18). "If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" (Jn. 15:7). "Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:32). "Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed" (Ps. 119:136). "As many as may be the promises of God in Him (Jesus) they are yes" (II Cor. 1:20).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W7. A life-explained as one of "experiencing scripture"

"This is that spoken of by the prophets" (Acts 2:16). "My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life" (Ps. 119:50). "My soul is consumed with longing for Your laws at all times" (Ps. 119:20).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W8. Living "naturally supernatural" in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (logos) the living Word (Rhema).

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word (Rhema) of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Ps. 119:105).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W9. Living abundantly "in the present" as His Word brings healing to hurt and anger, guilt, fear and condemnation—which are *heart hindrances* to life abundant.

"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy..." (John 10:10). "I run in the path of Your commands for You have set my heart free" (Ps. 119:32). "and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free" (Jn. 8:32). "For freedom Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail.

"The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of God abides forever" (Is. 40:8).

"So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth, it will not return to me empty" (Is. 55:11).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

Other than these ten (10) outcomes relating to "Loving His Word" What has been missed? Other outcomes? A Spirit-Empowered Disciple loves His Word through...



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple—Loves His Word Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
W6. Encountering Jesus in the Word for deepened transformation in Christ-likeness.					
W7. A life—explained as one of “experiencing scripture”.					
W8. Living “naturally supernatural” in all of life as His Spirit makes the written Word (logos) the living Word (Rhema).					
W9. Living abundantly “in the present” as His Word brings healing to hurt and anger, guilt, fear and condemnation—which are <i>heart hindrances</i> to life abundant.					
W10. Implicit, unwavering trust that His Word will never fail.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves People Through:

P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling.

"...He went about doing good..." (Acts 10:38). "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16). "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men" (Lk. 6:35). "Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification" (Rom. 15:2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P2. "Startling people" with loving initiatives to "give first".

*"Give, and it will be given to you. they will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return" (Lk. 6:38). "But Jesus was saying, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves" (Lk. 23:34). "And He said to him, 'Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise'" (Lk. 23:43). "Then He *said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' From that hour the disciple took her into his own household"(Jn. 19:27).*

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of His love.

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear" (Eph. 4:29). "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). "Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back" (Lk. 6:30).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallenness and aloneness.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.'" (Lk. 19:5). "And he looked up and said, 'I see men, for I see them like trees, walking around.'" (Mk. 8:24). "It's not good to be alone" (Gen. 2:18).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P5. Ministering His life and love to our nearest ones at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the church.

"You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered" (I Pet. 3:7). "In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives" (I Pet. 3:1). "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord. The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Ps. 127:3).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves People Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
P1. Living a Spirit-led life of doing good in all of life: relationships and vocation, community and calling.					
P2. “Startling people” with loving initiatives to “give first.”					
P3. Discerning the relational needs of others with a heart to give of His love.					
P4. Seeing people as needing BOTH redemption from sin AND intimacy in relationships, addressing both human fallenness and aloneness.					
P5. Ministering His life and love to our “nearest ones” at home and with family as well as faithful engagement in His Body, the church.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves People Through:

P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." (Gal. 5:22-23). "With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips" (Prov. 18:20).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as His spiritual gifts are made manifest .

"In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:19). "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father" (Jn. 14:12). "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy" (1 Cor. 14:1).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life's journey.

"...Live in peace with one another" (1 Th. 5:13). "For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall" (Eph. 2:14). "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (Jms. 5:16). "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Eph. 4:31-32).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P9. Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of "others" as He continues to challenge us to love "beyond our comfort."

"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:4). "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen" (1 Jn. 4:20).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart , and you will find rest for your souls" (Mt. 11:29). "If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn. 13:14).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

Other than these ten (10) outcomes relating to "Loving People" What has been missed? Other outcomes? A Spirit-Empowered Disciple loves people through...



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves People Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
P6. Expressing the fruit of the Spirit as a lifestyle and identity.					
P7. Expecting and demonstrating the supernatural as His spiritual gifts are made manifest .					
P8. Taking courageous initiative as a peacemaker, reconciling relationships along life’s journey.					
P9. Demonstrating His love to an ever growing network of “others” as He continues to challenge us to love “beyond our comfort.”					
P10. Humbly acknowledging to the Lord, ourselves, and others that it is Jesus in and through us who is loving others at their point of need.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves His Mission Through:

M1. Imparting the gospel and one's very life in daily activities and relationships, vocation and community.

"Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us. For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God" (1 Th. 2:8-9). "...and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel"(Eph. 6:19).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.

"But He said to them, 'I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose'" (Lk. 4:43). "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world"(Jn. 17:18). "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to you"(Ps. 51:12-13). "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.

"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved" (Acts 4:12). "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M4. Yielding to the Spirit's role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation.

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."(Jn. 16:8). "Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us" (Rom. 8:34). "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M5. Ministering His life and love to the "least of these".

"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me'" (Mt. 25:45). "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world" (Jms. 1:27).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves His Mission Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
M1. Imparting the gospel and one’s very life in daily activities, and relationships, vocation and community.					
M2. Expressing and extending the Kingdom of God as compassion, justice, love, and forgiveness are shared.					
M3. Championing Jesus as the only hope of eternal life and abundant living.					
M4. Yielding to the Spirit’s role to convict others as He chooses, resisting expressions of condemnation.					
M5. Ministering His life and love to the “least of these”.					



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves His Mission Through:

M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God's Lordship in all things.

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" (II Thess. 3:16). "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful" (Col. 3:15). "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). "How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord His God" (Ps. 146:5).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts, and resources in furthering His mission.

"Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God" (Col. 1:25). "...but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more" (Lk. 12:48). "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy" (I Cor. 4:1-2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M8. Attentive listening to others' "story," vulnerably sharing of our "story" and a sensitive witness of Jesus' "story" as life's ultimate hope; developing your story of prodigal, pre-occupied and pain-filled living; listening for other's story and sharing Jesus' story.

"...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (I Pet. 3:15). ..."because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found. Then the celebration began" (Luke 11:24). (Mark 5:21-42). (Jn. 9:1-35)

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Mt. 28:19-20). "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" (II Tim. 2:2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

M10. Living submissively within His Body, the Church as instruction and encouragement, reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples.

"...and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ" (Eph. 5:21). "Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted." (Gal. 6:1). "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2).

Comments/Questions/Other Bible verses—

Other than these ten (10) outcomes relating to "Loving His Mission" What has been missed? Other outcomes? A Spirit-Empowered Disciple loves His mission through...



A Spirit-Empowered Disciple —Loves His Mission Through:

Assess each statement by checking the column indicating how “true” it is of you in the last 12 months.

Outcome:

Self Assessment

Not True
Infrequently True
Somewhat True
Often True
Very True

	1	2	3	4	5
M6. Bearing witness of a confident peace and expectant hope in God’s Lordship in all things.					
M7. Faithfully sharing of time, talent, gifts and resources in furthering His mission.					
M8. Attentive listening to others’ “story,” vulnerably sharing of our “story” and a sensitive witness of Jesus’ “story” as life’s ultimate hope.					
M9. Pouring our life into others, making disciples who in turn make disciples of others.					
M10. Living submissively within His Body, the Church as instruction and encouragement, reproof and correction are graciously received by faithful disciples.					

An Age and Stage Model for Spirit-Empowered Disciples

First-century faith followed a pattern of belong- become-believe!

- “Come follow me” Matt. 4:19; (Belong)
- “Lord, teach us to pray” Luke 11:1; (Become)
- “You are the Christ” Matt. 16:16; (Believe)

CAUTION!

Numerous studies, including the Willowcreek *Reveal* study, indicate that the process below, in many ways, has broken down between stages 2 and 3 (i.e. what we have *explored* and personally *embraced* has *not become an experienced lifestyle* and thus not the believer’s identity).

EXPLORE truths of the faith in the safety of accepting relationships.



Allow belonging before believing.

EMBRACE truths of the faith in a personal way.



The imperative is moments of personal decision, encounter, and application.



Process of Faith Formation Requires: Encounters with Jesus

Belong-Become-Believe

The Willowcreek *Reveal* study uses the four terms, Exploring Christ, Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, and Christ-Centered.

Early church followers used stage terms such as seeker, hearer, kneeler, faithful. The Apostolic Tradition written around A.D. 215 by Hippolytus, bishop of Rome, is documented by Robert E. Webber in *Journey to Jesus* (Abington Press, 2001), pages 11–15.

EXPERIENCE truths of the faith in everyday life.



CAUTION! Monday–Friday living is where discipleship too often breaks down.

EXPRESS truths of the faith to others through your identity as a Christ-follower.

Selected Outcomes:

A Spirit-Empowered Disciple:

- Listens to and hears God.
- Lives life through experiencing Scripture.
- Shares His love with near ones beginning at home.
- Yields to the Spirit for intimacy and discernment, direction and empowerment.

Identity is contagious as others follow this Explore-Embrace-Experience-Express process.

Experiences of Scripture and Engaging Community →