

Growing in our Journey of Faith Pt 2

2 Pt 3:18 *"Grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ"*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 3rd

Learning to "walk by Faith" is not entirely unlike learning to walk physically in both require:

- Someone to help "guide" us. (*Teach us how to walk.*)
- Someone to help "guard" us. (*Identify obstacles that might trip us up.*)
- Someone to help "grow" us. (*Encourage us to develop our muscles and skill and*)

Review: Notice How God Guided, Guarded and Grew the early disciples through their journey of faith:

- **Begins as Curious:** Jn 1:29-43 (They spend time with Jesus)
Relationships take time to develop! Jn 15
- **Curiosity becomes Conviction.** (Mt. 4; Lk 4)
They see themselves and Jesus differently!
- **Conviction leads to a Call:** Mt 4:19 *"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men..."*
Jesus' call produces a Choice that's both Challenging and Life-Changing!
It changes our Heads (minds) Hearts (values) And hands (Actions/priorities)

This call involved becoming a part of a congregation!

Mt 4:19 *"They forsook all and followed"*

1. God calls into relationship with Jesus and each other!

1 Cor 12:27 *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."* (see also Eph 2:18-22)

2. We're not just called from Satan and Sin; *But to Salvation and Service!* Eph. 2:8-10 *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

(See also Col. 1:12-14 and Eph.4:1-5)

A. God gives shepherds to equip us for service. Eph. 4:11-16 *"he gave ... evangelists; and edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we be no more children... But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

3. As part of Jesus' "church", they:

A. Hear Preaching about God's Kingdom values. Mt 4:23 *"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching ... and preaching the gospel of the kingdom..."*

1) The Sermon on the Mount centered on this. Mt. 5-7

B. Witnessed Miraculous Ministry: Mt 4:23,24 “*healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: they brought him all sick people. . . and he healed them.*”

Therapeu’ō: to wait upon, relieve, cherish (See Malachi 4:2)

1) Jesus began (& ended) his ministry modeling the priority of Ministering to genuine needs!

2) His miracles drew large crowds. Mt 4:25 Notice Mt. 5:1 “*And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them. . .*”

a) Only those willing to climb the mountain heard the amazing truths of Mt. 5-7!

C. Jesus’ ministry challenged their prejudices.

1) He Touched (and healed) lepers. Mt. 8:1-3

2) He Talked (ministered) to Samaritans. John 4

3) He Healed a Roman Centurion’s servant (8:5-13) (and praised his faith!)

4) He Healed Peter’s Mother in law. (8:14-15)

Conclusion: The early disciple’s faith journey involved a process.

Curiosity → Conviction → Call “*Follow me*” → The next step involved becoming part of a “congregation” that followed Jesus together!

In this “congregational capacity” they:

- Listened to God’s word,
- Looked at Jesus modeling the priority of ministry,
- Learned from Him to face their own prejudices.

This call involved becoming a Part of a Congregation that would help them grow in their relationship to each other (living, learning, loving) as they grew in their relationship with Jesus!

This was not the point (conclusion) of their call,

but the path and process that would help to prepare them for it!

John 13:34,35 “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”

Heb. 10:23-25 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider (Katanoēō: understand) one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”



No one can truly follow Jesus

ALONE! Eccl. 4:9-12