

# ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE

## MAKE DISCIPLES

Matthew 28:16-20

- Each year, Celebration Church hosts a Baptism Weekend, giving our congregation the opportunity to be baptized.
- The word for baptism in the Greek language (the original language of the New Testament) is “*baptizo*” which literally means to immerse or submerge in water.
- “Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith.” – Watchman Nee
- **Reasons To Be Baptized:**
  - *I have prayed to make Jesus my Lord and Savior, but haven’t been baptized.*
  - *I was baptized as an infant/child, but that did not reflect my decision to follow Jesus...BUT, now I am choosing to follow Jesus.*
  - *I have not been following Jesus, but I’m ready to start today and want the world to know.*
  - *I have spent significant time living selfishly and sinfully, and feel like I need to start over with Jesus from the beginning.*
- **Reasons Not To Be Baptized:**
  - *Everyone else is doing it.*
  - *I think it will make me feel happy or whole.*
  - *Forgot to take a bath.*
  - *Baptistery looks like a hot tub.*
  - *I feel pressure to do so.*
- In the Kingdom of God, it’s not enough to simply BE a disciple - we need to MAKE disciples.
- Jesus - “Go and make disciples of all the nations. . .” (Matthew 28:19)
- A *disciple* is a student or learner.
- *Making disciples* involves: 1) Sharing our faith, 2) Helping others get baptized, and 3) Leading them to grow towards maturity in their faith.
- *What are the activities of a disciple maker?*

**To Make Disciples We Must:**

**LIVE AS DISCIPLES**

- *“Jesus came and told His disciples, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. . .’ (Matthew 28:18-19)*
- **Living as disciples starts with deciding to make Jesus our personal Lord and Savior.**
- *“For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.” (Romans 10:10)*
- **Jesus has called us to live *Under Authority*.**
  - Jesus - *“I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore. . .” (Matthew 28:18-19)*
  - **While we have the free will to make our own choices, we are only to use those choices to obey and glorify the Lord.**
- **Jesus has called us to live *With Authority*.**
  - *“Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.” (Matthew 10:1)*
  - **When we are under the authority of the Most High, then we can walk in the authority He gives us.**
- **One day Christians will reign over the earth with Jesus.**
- Jesus - *“To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, to them I will give authority over all the nations. They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. They will have the same authority I received from My Father, and I will also give them the morning star!” (Revelation 2:26-28)*
- **What is keeping me from living in the authority of a disciple?**

### ***To Make Disciples We Must:***

#### **BAPTIZE NEW DISCIPLES**

- Jesus - *“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)*
- **Baptism is the biblical way we go public with our faith.**
- *“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.” (Acts 2:41)*
- **Baptism is our first step of obedience.**
- Peter - *“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)*
- **Baptism is something we do before we have our act together.**
- Ananias - *“What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)*
- **Baptism is how we identify with Jesus.**
- *“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” (Romans 6:3-4)*
- **Baptism is one of the key indicators of the faithfulness and fruitfulness of someone’s faith.**

- One of the greatest rewards a disciple can experience is participating in another disciple's baptism.
- *What is stopping me or someone I know from being baptized?*

***To Make Disciples We Must:***

**TRAIN NEW DISCIPLES**

- Jesus - *"Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."* (Matthew 28:20)
- The work of developing disciple(s) requires **1) a primary focus on obedience, and 2) a secondary focus on commands.**
- Obedience to the Lord signifies: **1) Our LOVE for the Lord (John 14:15), 2) Our PRIORITY on the Lord (Acts 5:29), and 3) Our TRUST in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6).**
- As disciples, we are responsible for learning the commands we are to obey.
- Paul - *"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord."* (Ephesians 5:10)
- As disciples, we are responsible for learning and following the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus - *"But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for Him, and the sheep recognize His voice and come to Him. He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out."* (John 10:2-3)
- The primary place where Celebration Church teaches obedience to the Lord's commands is in Life Groups.
- *What disciples am I training and how?*
- Jesus - *"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)
- The Lord promised His presence as assurance of: **1) Authority (Ex. 33:15-16), 2) Intimacy (Psalm 139:7), and 3) Power (Acts 1:8).**
- The Lord's presence gives us the confidence to: **1) Exercise Our Authority, 2) Baptize New Disciples, and 3) Train New Disciples.**
- The work of *Making Disciples* never ends, so there is always a new step to take.
- *What step(s) do I need to take in response to this message?*