

Overview of the School of Discipleship

What is the School of Discipleship?

It is a school where the principles of Biblical spirit-led discipleship are taught, demonstrated and explained.

It is important to note, we don't actually make ourselves grow. God does this through the work of the Holy Spirit. Our job is to spend time with God and yield to His truth so He can form us into His image. By image I mean His nature and character. Developing disciplines to seek God and renewing our minds with the truth from God's word are some of the keys to spiritual growth.

Five aspects to the School of Discipleship

- 1. Grounding Manuals on our web site – www.stephengrayministries.com**
We have developed these manuals over 20 years of discipleship experience. We did not want to give you our knowledge but to send you to the Word of God to see what God says about the basics of our faith. Each lesson has homework questions and is meant to help you embrace the truths of grounding your faith. We can have faith in many things, but Biblical faith must be based on truth from God's word. We don't have a faith problem we have a truth problem. It is important for you to know the truth of God's word.
- 2. Creating an Environment for Spiritual Growth**
Consider that we don't actually make ourselves grow. That is the job of the Holy Spirit who was sent to lead and guide us into all truth and understanding. However, we can create an environment of skills, truth and the presence of God that will help feed our spirits and increase our desire to grow spiritually. We see the same results with any plant that wants to grow. We provide five things for the plant, light, water, nutrients, humidity and temperature. We believe there are essentially five things that help Christians to grow. They are Holy Spirit, Word of God, Renewing the Mind, the presence and glory of God and Faith. We go through each one of these areas using powerful textbooks to teach the principles of spiritual growth.
- 3. Small Group or one on one discipleship** – There should be accountability, encouragement and communication, regarding your spiritual walk including subjects such as our Identity, Strongholds, and Devotional Skills. Everything we do in discipleship must be spirit led. It stands to reason that if the one making disciples can hear and discern what God is doing and cooperate with God then the one he is discipling will grow faster. The disciple maker is listening to God through the Holy Spirit and demonstrating a spirit-led life while answering questions that any growing Christian should have. We call the one who is leading a small group a facilitator. He tries to listen to the Holy Spirit and direct the group as the Holy Spirit leads. It is different from one on one discipleship because more people are involved and it does not replace

one on one discipleship but can be used to disciple more people at once. In a small group we are not listening so much to what people say but we are listening more to what God is saying. What is His answer to the problems the group faces? Does God have a central theme for the group such as lacking understanding about their justification? We see this happen when issues of value show up in negative behavior. We also see much fear in people's lives when they don't grasp how much God loves them or when they don't love themselves. It is the facilitator's job to discern what God wants to speak and reveal to the group. We want to work with and dialogue with each facilitator until they understand how to lead a small group.

4. **The anointed preached word** should occur in an atmosphere of the presence and glory of God. We hope most saved Christians are already assembling with the saints where the word is taught or preached. Teaching is more informational and preaching is more motivational. We want every student to be hearing an anointed message every week from someone who is called by God to preach.

5. **Tearing down strongholds – Transformational Prayer**

We define discipleship as living at the cross daily so we can have fellowship with God as He reveals Himself so we can know Him and His ways. We are surrendered to His will so we follow Him and allow Him to tear down strongholds that hinder us from obedience to His Spirit so we can demonstrate a life under His reign. This is the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom. The key to tearing down strongholds is renewing the mind, (Romans 12:2). We have found that strongholds have four towers in their structure. They are sins of the fathers, ungodly beliefs, spirit soul hurts and demonic influence. These areas are systematically broken through prayer as directed by the Holy Spirit. This is not a counseling skill but rather a spirit-led process of allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you through the areas that need to be aligned with God's truth.