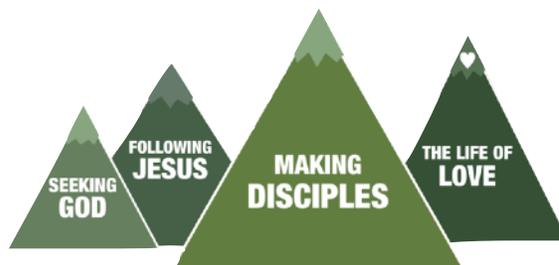
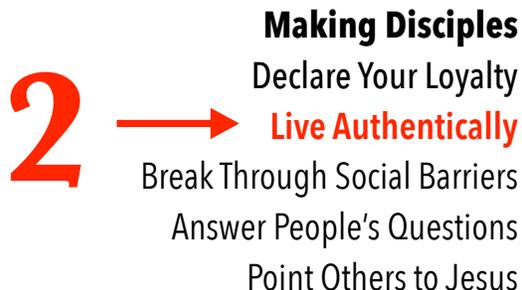


Live Authentically

Making Disciples - Hempfield UMC - 3-12-17

The witness of our lives is an essential part of our testimony. People need to see the results before they will "buy in" to the Christian faith. This does not mean that we need to display perfection, but we must demonstrate authentic progress.



Peter's First Letter - Various Verses on Authentic Living

Prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy. (1:13-16)

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. (1:22)

Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation. (2:1-2)

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (2:4-5)

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the people, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to visit.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (3:8)

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. (4:7-8)

Meditate on the Word

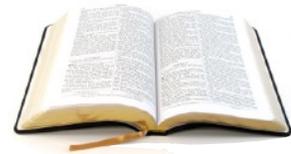
Christian meditation is simply allowing the Word of God time to take root within our soul. We will know the Word has taken root when we see our actions or outlook beginning to change.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Application *for abundant living:*

Learn to Meditate on God's Word



Christian meditation is a filling of the mind with God's truth.

Find a time and place to quiet your soul.

Read God's Word slowly and deliberately.

Perhaps read God's Word aloud, listening carefully as though the Lord was speaking.

Allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind the circumstances of your life that relate to what you read.

Listen for a personal truth that God has for you.

Perhaps there is a work God wants you to do; perhaps it is a habit God wants you to set aside.

Perhaps God wants to instill a value into your soul. Whatever it is, receive God's Word gladly.

Record your experience and refer to it regularly.

Continue referring to what you have learned until you see evidence of change in your life.

Do not give up or get discouraged; God desires you to grow and will be your helper.

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

Read Richard Foster's book [Celebration of Discipline](#), specifically his chapter on Meditation.

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Peter implores us to crave the pure spiritual food that helps us grow.

Are you in a place in your faith-walk where you desire to be fed spiritually?

If not, why not? - If so, what are you doing to be fed?

Peter lists the attitudes we cast off as Christians: deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

What can we be doing to do away with these unholy attitudes?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What does God provide for us to protect us against sin?

Peter teaches us that we are to be a holy priesthood.

What does it mean to be a priest in God's holy priesthood of believers?

What keeps us from living in the reality that we are all God's priests?

How am I being called by God into his service?