

The Key to Our Church's Future **2 Timothy**

Part 1 – “Discipleship: Passing the Faith Along”

Introduction:

1. What is the best way to train up teachers for L.I.F.E. Groups, children's workers, teen leaders, deacons, preachers, leaders, people who know how to share their faith with others, etc? What is the best way for a church to do this?
 - Is it to send them off to a seminar, a workshop, or another church? Is it to simply pray for them, give them a book and say, “Now learn it?”
2. Here is the best way, and it is really profound: find people in the church who are already doing it, and teach them!
3. The Christian life is a learning and growing process. 2 Timothy 3:14
 - We go to church to learn. 1 Corinthians 14:31
 - We learn how to serve God. Titus 3:14
 - We learn the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:14-15
 - God uses other believers to help us to learn. Colossians 1:7
4. Philippians 4:9 teaches us how Christians learn and grow.
 - A teacher teaches them what to do, a teacher shows them how to do it, the teacher turns them loose and lets them do it.
 - The word “do” means “to perform repeatedly or habitually.”
5. The learning process is called “discipleship.”
 - A “disciple” is a “learner; a pupil.”
 - A disciple makes himself available for training and devotes himself to a lifetime of learning.
6. Discipleship is the key to our church's future.
 - Jesus taught this principle. Matthew 28:19-20
 - The apostle Paul taught this. 2 Timothy 2:2
 - The apostle Paul practiced this. Acts 14:21
7. Why is discipleship the key to our church's future?

First, because discipleship is God's way of passing our faith along

1. In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul is writing to his son in the faith, Timothy, who was pastoring the church at Ephesus. He gave him two pieces of advice:
 - Be strong – vs. 1
 - Pass it along – vs. 2
2. Paul basically says, “What I have taught you, you must teach others. Pass it along. Don't keep the truth to yourself. Find faithful men and teach them, invest in them, make a deposit in them, and pour yourself into them.” This is called discipleship.
3. What is the result? Look at the end of verse 2. They go and teach others.
 - Four generations are represented in this one verse.
 - This is God's plan. It's biblical, and it will work!

4. Do you want your life to have far-reaching impact after you're dead and gone?
 - First, you must be discipled.
 - Second, you must disciple someone else.
5. Here is how discipleship works:
 - You must learn the truth.
 - You must find faithful men and women.
 - You must teach them.
 - They must go and teach others.
6. This is the principle of spiritual multiplication. It is the only way to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - What a message of grace we have been given. It has been deposited to us, and now we must lead others to Christ and teach them God's ways.
 - This is like a mathematical formula for spreading the gospel and enlarging the church.

In Conclusion:

1. Have you been discipled? You say, "What do you mean?"
 - First, do you know for sure you have been saved?
 - Do you know how to study the Bible for yourself and get food out?
 - Do you know how to pray and what to pray for?
 - Do you know how to share your faith with others?
2. Once you are discipled, you will know how to do these things.
3. Maybe you're here and you do know how to do these things. Are you teaching anybody else how to? (your children, someone in your L.I.F.E. Group, a new believer)
4. God desires for every believer to pass the faith along.

End of Part 1