

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

The 13 Characteristics that are the goal of DFGC's Generation Church

1. A person who is in submission to the Lord. (Luke 9:23-25)

Luke 9:23-25 (NLT)

Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross daily, and follow me. [24] If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life. [25] And how do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose or forfeit your own soul in the process?"

2. A person who loves and lives by the Word of God, the Bible. (James 1:21-25)

James 1:21-25 (NLT)

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the message God has planted in your hearts, for it is strong enough to save your souls.

[22] And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself.

[23] For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. [24] You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. [25] But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law—the law that sets you free—and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

3. A person who is filled with and living by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-21, 37-39)

Acts 2:1-21, 37-39 (NLT)

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. [2] Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. [3] Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. [4] And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

[5] Godly Jews from many nations were living in Jerusalem at that time. [6] When they heard this sound, they came running to see what it was all about, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

[7] They were beside themselves with wonder. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, [8] and yet we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born! [9] Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, [10] Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya toward Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), [11] Cretans, and Arabians. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" [12] They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. [13] But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said.

[14] Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. [15] Some of you are saying these people are drunk. It isn't true! It's much too early for that. People don't get drunk by nine o'clock in the morning. [16] No, what you see this morning was predicted centuries ago by the prophet Joel:

[17] 'In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. [18] In those days I will pour out my Spirit upon all my servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy. [19] And I will cause wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below — blood and fire and clouds of smoke. [20] The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon will turn blood red, before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives. [21] And anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

[37] Peter's words convicted them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

[38] Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from 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. [39] This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

4. A person who functions in their spiritual gifts. (1 Peter 4:10, Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-13)

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

Romans 12:1-8 (NLT)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? [2] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

[3] As God's messenger, I give each of you this warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you. [4] Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, [5] so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

[6] God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you. [7] If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. [8] If your gift is to encourage others, do it! If you have money, share it generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

1 Cor. 12:4-11 (NLT)

Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. [5] There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. [6] There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. [7] A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

[8] To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge. [9] The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick. [10] He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. [11] It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

Ephes. 4:11-13 (NLT)

He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. [12] Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, [13] until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.

5. A person who is consistently sharing their faith. (1 Peter 3:15)

1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

6. A person who serves the local church. (Acts 2:37-47)

Acts 2:37-47 (NLT)

Peter's words convicted them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

[38] Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from 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. [39] This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God." [40] Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this generation that has gone astray!"

[41] Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all. [42] They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer.

[43] A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. [44] And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had. [45] They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need. [46] They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— [47] all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

7. A person who is servant to others. (Matthew 20:25-28)

Matthew 20:25-28 (NLT)

But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. [26] But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, [27] and whoever wants to be first must become your slave. [28] For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

8. A person who is a fervent worshipper. (Habakkuk 3:17-18, Acts 16:16-34)

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NLT)

Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vine; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, [18] yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.

Acts 16:16-34 (NLT)

One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. [17] She followed along behind us shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved."

[18] This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and spoke to the demon within her. "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her," he said. And instantly it left her.

[19] Her masters' hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. [20] "The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!" they shouted. [21] "They are teaching the people to do things that are against Roman customs."

[22] A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. [23] They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. [24] So he took no chances but put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks.

[25] Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. [26] Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! [27] The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. [28] But Paul shouted to him, "Don't do it! We are all here!"

[29] Trembling with fear, the jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down before Paul and Silas. [30] He brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

[31] They replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with your entire household." [32] Then they shared the word of the Lord with him and all who lived in his household. [33] That same hour the jailer washed their wounds, and he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. [34] Then he brought them into his house and set a meal before them. He and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

9. A person who is a faithful pray-er. (Daniel 6:1-10)

Daniel 6:1-10 (NLT)

Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a prince to rule over each province. [2] The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the princes and to watch out for the king's interests. [3] Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and princes. Because of his great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. [4] Then the other administrators and princes began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling his affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize. He was faithful and honest and always responsible. [5] So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the requirements of his religion."

[6] So the administrators and princes went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! [7] We administrators, prefects, princes, advisers, and other officials have unanimously agreed that Your Majesty should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to Your Majesty—will be thrown to the lions. [8] And let Your Majesty issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed, a law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." [9] So King Darius signed the law.

[10] But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.

10. A person who is a generous giver of money, time, talents, etc. (Acts 4:32-37, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

Acts 4:32-37 (NLT)

All the believers were of one heart and mind, and they felt that what they owned was not their own; they shared everything they had. [33] And the apostles gave powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's

great favor was upon them all. [34] There was no poverty among them, because people who owned land or houses sold them [35] and brought the money to the apostles to give to others in need.

[36] For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. [37] He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles for those in need.

2 Cor. 9:6-8 (NLT)

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. [7] You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. [8] And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

11. A person who is a family-builder. (Ephesians 5:25-27, 31-32, Ephesians 6:1-4)

Ephes. 5:25-27 (NLT)

And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her [26] to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. [27] He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.

Ephes. 5:31-32 (NLT)

As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." [32] This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.

Ephes. 6:1-4 (NLT)

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. [2] "Honor your father and mother." This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. [3] And this is the promise: If you honor your father and mother, "you will live a long life, full of blessing."

[4] And now a word to you fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord.

12. A person who is overcoming their self-life. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

1 Cor. 9:24-27 (NLT)

Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. [25] All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. [26] So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I am not like a boxer who misses his punches. [27] I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

13. A person who has a world vision. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. [19] Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [20] Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."