

Membership † **Discipleship** † Leadership

John 13:34-35 *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I am a disciple of _____.

A follower of Jesus Christ who studies the scriptures and diligently seeks to comply with what God commands. Jesus said *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."* (John 8:31)

"Restoration & Restitution"

† Proverbs 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"*

2 Chronicles 7:14 says *"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* You can't change where you've been but you can certainly change the direction in which you are going! The bible requires us to demonstrate that true repentance has taken place in our lives. If there is no evidence of true repentance, others may fail to witness true restoration. As disciples, we are commissioned to go out and make disciples (Mt. 28:19-20). When you disobey the word of God, it is imperative that you repent. Often times, we feel inadequate in our discipleship journey because of the sin that we're hiding from others. Jesus preached "Repent" (Mt. 4:17) so that sinners may come to know him through repentance (Mt. 9:13). The angels of God rejoice when sinners repent (Lk. 15:10). The disciples preached "Repentance" (Mk. 6:12) so that others could be converted through forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Mt. 3:2). Do not allow your wilderness experience to prevent you from preparing the way for someone else to come into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Repentance prepares the heart for Jesus to enter.

Some assume that when we confess our sins that we're repenting. Confession is acknowledging that you're guilty. Repentance is not only sincere heartfelt sorrow for our sins; it's the desire to turn away from the sin that we committed. God wants all of us to come to a place of repentance (2 Peter 3:9). There are disciples waiting on you to make the initial contact. Can God trust you to go out and make other disciples? When you repent, you turn away from whatever it is that caused you to turn away from God and turn back to Him. Again, remember the process because you don't want the enemy to deceive you into thinking perfection. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Repentance restores your relationship with your heavenly Father. It's about His will for your life not how you feel about your life. You may feel sorry for what you've done but do you feel sorry enough to not return to that place of sin? Ephesians 5:15-17 says "Be very careful about how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." God is more concern with who you are than what you did. Repent and turn to God for forgiveness!

† Romans 12:2 “... *be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*”

Restoration: In Luke 15:11-32 we learn of a prodigal son who came to himself and returned to his father’s house. Upon his return, he said “*Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.*” This is exactly where God wants us - in a place of repentance. We live in a culture where pride resides so we fail to return to the Father based on what others may think. The prodigal son had a faithful older brother that remained with the father. The brother was angry because the father celebrated his lost son’s return. The father comforted him by saying “*It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.*” If you are dead in sin, trust that you can be alive through repentance. If you’re lost in darkness, come into the truth of His light. For whoever lives by the truth shall come into the light (Jn. 3:21). The truth will make you free (Jn. 8:32). Because the prodigal son humbled himself and repented, he was fully restored! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. A changed heart + a changed mind = Restoration!!!

Restitution: In Luke 22:31-32, Jesus tells Peter that the enemy wants to sift him as wheat. He encourages him by saying “*I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.*” Return?? Peter was sure that he was ready to follow Jesus both to prison and to death (v33). Jesus assured Peter that he would deny Him (v4). During the arrest and death of Jesus, Peter was recognized as a disciples, and he said “*I do not know Him*” (v54-v62). At some point in our walk with Christ, we have been just as guilty as Peter. We deny the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in us every time we surrender to sin. Peter is an extraordinary example for us to follow. He repented and returned to Jesus so that he could strengthen others. On the day of Pentecost Peter said to them, “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.*” and with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “*Be saved from this perverse generation.*” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to church (Acts 2:38-41).

† Day/ Week of	Daily Reading	What verse had the most impact?
Monday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 141-145	
Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalms 146-150	
Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 1-3	
Thursday <input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 4-6	
Friday <input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 7-9	
Saturday <input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 10-12	
Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 13-15	

Submit questions to MCCquestions@yahoo.com

