

## Garden to Garden Part 9

### FAQ: Being a Disciple of Jesus

**Q: What is the primary question every believer should ask themselves?**

**A:** The primary question every believer should ask themselves is: "Am I really a disciple of Jesus?" This isn't just about attending church or believing in God, but a deeper self-examination of whether one is truly following Jesus with their entire life.

**Q: What are the key requirements or characteristics of a disciple of Jesus highlighted in Matthew 28:16-17?**

- **Availability to God:** Disciples show up when and where Jesus directs them to gather. This reflects a willingness to prioritize God's call over personal preferences or other commitments.
- **Awe of God (Worship):** Disciples stand in awe of Jesus, acknowledging Him as God, the forgiver of sin, the defeater of death, and their Savior and Sovereign King. Worship is not optional but a fundamental aspect of a disciple's life and the motivation for making more disciples.
- **Surrender to God's Authority:** Disciples recognize and submit to Jesus' complete authority in heaven and on earth. They live lives fully surrendered to His purposes and plans.



**Q: What is the central command that Jesus gives to His disciples in Matthew 28:19?**

**A:** The central command Jesus gives is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." This is not a suggestion but a summons to actively engage in the process of leading others to know and follow Jesus.

**Q: What does it mean to "make disciples" according to Matthew 28:19-20a, and what are the specific actions involved?**

**A:** Making disciples involves more than just leading people to make a decision for Christ. It includes:

- **Going to all nations:** The call is global and inclusive of everyone.
- **Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:** Baptism is the outward demonstration and public declaration of a person's faith in Jesus Christ and their identification with His life, death, burial, and resurrection.
- **Teaching them to observe all that Jesus has commanded:** This goes beyond imparting knowledge; it involves teaching and demonstrating how to live a life of obedience to Jesus' teachings. Disciple makers reproduce who they are, showing others how to follow and obey Jesus.



**Q: What is the relationship between baptism and salvation?**

**A:** Baptism is not presented as the means of salvation, but rather as the outward mark and public declaration that a person has already received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is an act of obedience for those who have believed the gospel.

**Q: Why is teaching to obey Jesus' commands emphasized as a crucial part of disciple-making?**

**A:** Teaching to obey all of Jesus' commands is crucial because discipleship is about transforming lives to align with God's will. It's not merely about intellectual assent but about practical obedience and living in accordance with Jesus' teachings. This requires ongoing instruction and demonstration.

**Q: What is the essential resource that disciples can depend on as they carry out Jesus' command?**

**A:** The essential resource that disciples can depend on is the constant presence of Jesus. He promises, "Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." This presence, often understood through the Holy Spirit, provides the power and assurance needed to fulfill the mission of making disciples.



**Q: What is the significance of Jesus' promise to be with his disciples "to the end of the age"?**

**A:** Jesus' promise to be with His disciples "to the end of the age" offers immense encouragement and assurance. It means that disciples are never alone in their efforts to make more disciples. Whether in personal discipleship or broader outreach, Jesus Himself is present, empowering and guiding them until His return. This promise undergirds the entire mission and provides unwavering support.

