



The Flow

4

The Heart of Discipleship

Isaiah 50:5-9

Fostering Spiritual Growth in the Church

Paul J. Bucknell

Fostering Spiritual Growth in the Church

3 Stages of Spiritual Life

2 Lessons:
Being like Jesus
(Isaiah 54:4-9)

1 Lesson:
Vision of Church

6-8 Lessons:
Topical Analysis
of Christian
Growth

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Is 54

Is 54

1

1

2

2

2

3

3

Church

Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth

Growth

The Flow

A) The Pattern of Spiritual Growth

B) The Application of Spiritual Growth

5 Points to be a Good Discippler

- A.) The **Training** of the Disciple

A disciple is a learner.

- B.) The **Purpose** of the Disciple

A disciple serves others.

- C.) The **Discipline** of the Disciple

A disciple regularly communes with God.

- D.) The **Attention** of the Disciple

A disciple attentively listens and obeys God.

- E.) The **Resolve** of the Disciple

A disciple withstands difficulties to please His Master.

Lived with our Limitations

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men”
(Philippians 2:5-7).

E.) The Resolve of a Disciple (Is 50:5-9)

**A disciple withstands difficulties
to please His Master**

- **1. Our Heart Commitment (50:5)**
- **2. Our Choice to Serve (50:6)**
- **3. Our Trust in God (50:7)**
- **4. Our Victory over Bitterness (50:8-9)**

Isaiah 50:5-9

“The Lord GOD has opened My ear;

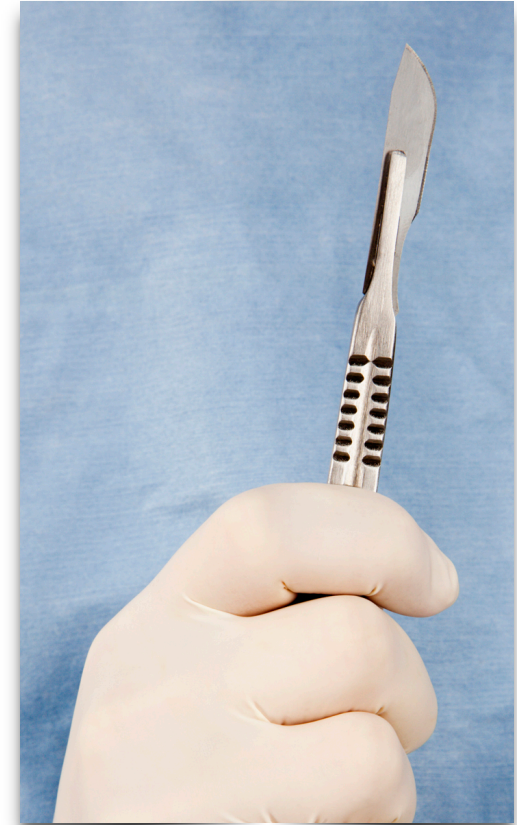
And I was not disobedient, Nor did I turn back.

(6) I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. (7) For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I shall not be ashamed. (8) He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me. (9) Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; Who is he who condemns Me? Behold, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will eat them.” NASB

1. Our Heart Commitment (50:5)

“The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient, nor did I turn back.”

- Awakening (4) differs from opening the ear (5)
- God Yahweh broke the door of resistance
- Our **hearts** need changing
- Testimony - The **Surgeon**



2. Our Choice to Serve (50:6)

(1) *“I gave My back to those who strike Me.”*

(2) *“I gave ... My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard.”*

(3) *“I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.”*

- “I” – **His** choice not His enemies
- “I gave My back” – **God** is in control
“You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above” (John 19:10-11).
- “I did not cover My face” – Not ashamed

3. Our Trust in God (50:7)

*“For the Lord GOD helps Me,
Therefore, I am not disgraced;
Therefore, I have set My face like flint,
And I know that I shall not be ashamed.”*

- Not a **denial** of pain
- “The Lord God helps Me” - God’s sufficient **grace**
- “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” (2 Cor 12:9).
- Accepts our vulnerability and weaknesses

4. Our Victory over **Bitterness** (8-9)

“He who vindicates Me is near; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up to each other; Who has a case against Me? Let him draw near to Me.”

- Not blind to injustice
- Not seeking **revenge** (Ro 12:19)
- Persecution does not mean one has done wrong
- God’s judgment is coming soon to judge wicked

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D.) The Attention of the Disciple

A disciple attentively listens and obeys God.

E.) The Resolve of the Disciple

A disciple withstands difficulties to please His Master.

I want to be a **Good Discip**ler

- ✓ I am *willing* to be a lifelong learner.
- ✓ I *will* develop my gifts and use my resources to effectively serve others.
- ✓ I *will* regularly commune with God.
- ✓ I *will* attentively listen to and obey God.
- ✓ I *will* withstand what difficulties are necessary in order to please my Master.

The Flow

4

Discussion Questions

1. How do you respond if you do not like what your Heavenly Father asks you to do?
2. What is so wrong with bitterness?
Is there someone you haven't forgiven?
3. What do you think about the way Jesus was mistreated and His response (7)?

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