

Relational Discipleship

The Great Commission is clear in giving Christ followers purpose. We are to be about the task of sharing the gospel and teaching responders to obey biblical teaching. That is disciple making. The Holy Spirit is continually working to create opportunities and arrange circumstances that bring such people into our lives. One need we have is for us to be sensitive to His ministry in such positioning and then allow Him to guide us through needed conversations and modeling.

There is another dimension in the nurture of disciple making. We who are seeking to be obedient to God's purpose for us need to also understand that we are most sensitive to the Holy Spirit and most effective in our task when we are being nurtured ourselves. That process occurs in several ways, not the least in us being nurtured and encouraged by other people. An important question for us is, "Who are the people in our lives who we are intentionally spending time with for the purpose of continuing spiritual growth?"

My fear for many of us who have been in the faith for a long time is that we have ceased to seek out others we recognize as spiritually mature for the purpose of nurture. Conversations and time together can be the means for the Holy Spirit to move us deeper into a life with God. Without such experiences we risk spiritual complacency or even burnout.

Even though we are more occupied with schedules than we have ever been, there is a need for time for relational nurture with us as recipients. I pray we won't allow the **urgent** to prevent us from the **important**. Our continuing spiritual health is at stake.