



Effective discipleship through academics, service and missions

DEVELOPING STRONG CONVICTIONS



THE FIRST STEP in becoming a disciple is the surrender to the Lordship of Jesus. Our will must bow to His in defined and open commitment. This requires a renewing of our way of thinking. (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:22-24)

THE SECOND STEP is the development of strong convictions which are basic principles we determine to follow without compromise. It is our heart and the will committed to God's Principles.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.*

FIVE STEPS

The commands of 1 Corinthians 6:13-14 are five steps that every Christian can follow in order to insure consistency and balance in building Biblical convictions. Here are the steps...

1. BE ON YOUR GUARD

- A. Samson - Judges 13 through 16
- B. Although Samson was given supernatural strength, he was conquered by a woman, blinded by his enemies and forced to grind wheat in a prison. Samson failed to be alert to spiritual danger.
- C. To be alert to spiritual danger means to develop our discernment!
 - Recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:17, 22-23)
 - Recognize false thinking. (Humanism vs. the Bible authority)
 - Detect subtle temptations and wrong motives.
 - Determine unwise and destructive friendships.
 - Foresee conflicts and problems before they happen.

2. STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

A. Daniel - Daniel 1 and 6

B. On two separate occasions, Daniel was commanded to do things which violated the teaching of Scripture. Because of his strong convictions, Daniel became mightily used by God in the land of captivity.

C. Be true to God's standards.

- His response to the first situation (Daniel 1) was to explain his convictions to the one in charge and respectfully ask for permission to use a creative alternative.
- His response to the second situation (Daniel 6) was to obey God and submit to the authorities for disobedience.



3. BE COURAGEOUS

A. Joshua– Joshua 1

B. God promised Joshua that he would have great success wherever he went IF he would faithfully perform one activity: to meditate upon God's Word night and day! It is through saturation of God's Word in everyday life that we become successful and that we are courageous in the face of opposition and danger. (Joshua 1: 2-9)

C. Act with confidence in God's ability!

- Be able to place God's principles upon Scripture.
- Research the actual meaning of Scripture.
- See reality through the "eyes" of Scripture.
- Meditate on God's Word so that it becomes a part of our thought processes.
- Correctly apply Scripture to real-life situations.

4. BE STRONG

A. Elijah - 1 Kings 17 and 18

B. Elijah lived in a day when the people of Israel worshipped God with their mouths but served other gods. How did Elijah turn Israel back to God? First, he brought the people to a point of decision (1 Kings 18:21). Then he revealed the futility of the gods of Baal and demonstrated the reality and power of God in a great and supernatural way (1 Kings 18:22-40). However, Elijah succumbed to demonic pressure through Queen Jezebel. God's intent was to increase Elijah's own strength through the trial.

C. Be strong in strength and might of God!

- Be filled with the Spirit of God, clothed in His might and dressed in His armor. (Ephesians 6:10-13)
- Be genuine and live out your convictions in your own life.
- Teach people to teach others to develop Scriptural convictions. (2 Timothy 2:2)
- Be prepared to stand alone for your convictions!

5. DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE - STEPHEN

A. Stephen - Acts 6 and 7

B. When Stephen was called before the Jewish Council to answer false charges, his face became like the “face of an angel” (Acts 6:15). What was the secret of such power? Stephen was able to love his persecutors with such intense and genuine love because he was filled with God’s Word and was mighty in spirit! He was already prepared to love them, even to the death!

C. Respond with the supernatural love of God in difficult circumstances!

- Esteem others higher than yourself. (Philippians 2:2-4)
- Demonstrate a servant’s heart and a learner’s spirit.
- Always watch for pride and conquer it.
- Be committed to the success of others and earn the right to be heard.
- Learn to see situations from the other person’s perspective.
- Be patient with others in their process of developing personal Biblical convictions.
- Refuse to be angry when others fail you.
- Overcome evil by an opposite action. (Romans 12:17-21)