

(BASICS | PHASE 2)

The subject of Discipleship is frequently discussed today. Men are called to become disciples without any definition of the concept, and without any clarification of the requirements the Lord makes of those who are His disciples.

Discipleship is frequently equated with salvation and often erroneously made a condition for becoming a Christian. Thus many are confused about their relationship to Jesus Christ.

Dwight Pentecost
Design for Discipleship

23 Then He said to *them* all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. Luke 9:23

26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:26

Salvation

Salvation

Justification

Past (Phase 1)

*I Have Been Saved From the
Penalty of Sin*

Free

Christian

Salvation

Sanctification

Present (Phase 2)

*I Am Being Saved From the
Power of Sin*

Costly

Disciple

Salvation

Glorification

Future (Phase 3)

*I Will Be Saved
From the
Presence of Sin*

Face to Face

Glorified Bodies

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.
Eph. 2:8-9

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
Rom. 5:8-9

¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.
Rom.13:11

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Salvation is free and " without price " (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 55:1), but salvation is certainly not cheap (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:20).	Discipleship is costly and the cost must be counted (Luke 14:25-33).
Salvation takes place in an instantly .	Discipleship is a life-long process (John 8:31; Matthew 28:19-20).
Salvation requires believing in Christ (Acts 16:30-31).	Discipleship is about following Christ (Matt. 4:18-22) and learning from Him (Matt. 11:29).
Salvation is coming to Christ and finding rest from the burden of sin (Matthew 11:28).	Discipleship is taking Christ's yoke and learning from Him (Matthew 11:29).
Salvation involves Christ loving me (Rom. 5:8 ; Gal. 2:20; John 3:16).	Discipleship involves me loving Christ (Matthew 10:37).
A saved person is one who believes the gospel.	A disciple is one who abides in Christ's Word (John 8:31).

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Has Eternal life John 3:36 (possessing)	Eternal life= knowing GTF+GTS (stewarding)
Escapes the great white throne judgement Rev.20:15	Participates in the judgement seat of Christ 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor 5:10
A saved person calls on Christ (Rom. 10:13) .	A disciple denies self (Luke 9:23).
A saved person possesses Christ (1 John 5:12).	A disciple forsakes possessions (Luke 14:33).
Being saved involves trusting (Eph. 1:13).	Being a disciple involves training (Matt. 28:19-20).
Salvation involves receiving God's gift (John 1:12; Eph. 2:8-9).	Discipleship involves receiving God's instruction (Acts 2:42).

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Every believer measures up to the full demands of God's righteousness in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21).	Believers often do not measure up to the full demands of discipleship (Luke 14:25-33).
Salvation involves one's <u>standing</u> in Christ (one's perfect position in Him).	Discipleship involves one's <u>state</u> (one's actual practice or condition).
With salvation the emphasis is upon what God has done (1 Cor. 15:3-4).	With discipleship the emphasis is upon what man must do (Luke 14:25-33).
The focus of salvation is upon the work of Christ (1 Cor. 1:18).	The focus of discipleship is upon the Word of Christ , His teaching (John 8:31).
Salvation is God's commitment to His Word based on the work of His Son (Rom. 3:24).	Discipleship is the believer's commitment to Christ's Word based on his relationship to Christ (John 6:68).
The saved person is a saint (1 Cor. 1:2), a position shared equally by all believers.	The disciple is a student (Matt. 11:29). Some believers are better students than others.

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
The invitation to salvation is “ Come unto Me ” (John 6:37; Matthew 11:28).	The invitation to discipleship is “ Come after Me ” (Luke 9:23).
Salvation is belief in Christ (1 John 3:23a; John 3:36).	Discipleship requires obedience to all of Christ's commands (Matthew 28:19-20).
Salvation is the believer hearing His Word and believing on Him (John 5:24).	Discipleship is the believer sitting at His feet and hearing His Word (Luke 10:39).
The believer is never instructed to obey the demands of discipleship in order to be saved . This would be salvation by works (LS)	The believer seeks to fulfill all the demands of discipleship because he is saved . This is being saved "unto good works" (Eph. 2:10).
Salvation involves a faith in Christ (John 3:16, 6:40,47).	Discipleship involves doing not just hearing the Word (James 1:22).

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
God's salvation is perfect , lacking nothing (Col. 2:10; 1 Cor. 1:30).	Measuring up in discipleship is less than perfect , but " I press on " (Phil. 3:12-13).
To be saved a person must believe on Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Acts 16:31). The belief in the Lord Jesus Christ is a one time moment of faith never to be repeated and never to be lost.	To be a disciple a person must continue in Christ's Word, love Christ supremely, deny self, forsake all that he possesses, bear his cross daily, etc. The requirements of discipleship are many and they are difficult.
Discipleship (and all that it involves) is not a requirement for salvation.	Discipleship is a privilege of every saved person.

A COMPARISON AND CONTRAST BETWEEN SALVATION AND DISCIPLESHIP

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Every saved person is saved by faith alone (not by obedience or by surrender or by submission by giving up possessions, etc...).	A believer should become a follower John 14:15, 21, 23. It is an expression of our love for God.
Salvation relates primarily to justification .(P1)	Discipleship relates primarily to sanctification .(P2)
Justification and sanctification are related but they must not be confused. They must be kept distinct. The same is true for salvation and discipleship.	
Salvation puts a person into a right relationship with God the Father. A one-time process (spiritual birth)	Discipleship is an ongoing relationship and interaction between Jesus and believer (a lifelong process).