

Steps of a Disciple

Part Three - The Bible: God's Guide For You

“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” (Ps 119:105)

Two familiar biblical images combine in this verse: life is a path (vv. 32, 35, 101, 128; 16:11; 23:3; 25:4) and God's Word is the light that helps us follow the right path (v. 130; 18:28; 19:8; 36:9; 43:3; Prov. 6:23; 2 Peter 1:19). The ancient world did not have lights such as we have today; the people carried little clay dishes containing oil, and the light illuminated the path only one step ahead. We do not see the whole route at one time, for we walk by faith when we follow the Word. Each act of obedience shows us the next step, and eventually we arrive at the appointed destination.

Now, we are told that this is “an enlightened age,” but we live in a dark world (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12; 12:46; Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9) and only God's light can guide us aright. Obedience to the Word keeps us walking in the light (1 John 1:5–10).

As we continue our series, “Steps of a Disciple,” today we turn to a very important step of a disciple, The Bible: God's Guide For You. As you can see by our series illustration on the screen behind me, moving forward, taking one step after another, requires a guide. For the disciple of Jesus Christ, that guide is the Bible.

The Bible Accomplishes Many Purposes In The Life Of A Disciple. Let's take a look at three of them today....

Purpose #1 - The Bible Equips You For Service

II Timothy 3:16-17

Paul writes to Timothy and tells him that the Bible is inspired of God and it is profitable for a number of things to him:

- **To Teach**
- **To Reprove/rebuking those in sin**
- **To Correct/correcting those in error**
- **To Train/guiding believers in God's ways**

Notice verse 17 tells us that God has an intended purpose for all of the benefits the Bible can have an a disciple—so that you will be complete, capable, proficient in the sense of being able to meet all demands AND that you be equipped for every good work.

Think of an automobile mechanic who tries to repair a car without ratchets, wrenches, screwdrivers, or pliers. Clearly that mechanic is not equipped to do the job.

That's us, if we think we can do the work of God without first being equipped.

So, **The Bible Equips You For Service**

Purpose #2 - The Bible Sustains You

Like a well-balanced diet, reading the Bible and committing it's teachings into your life sustains your soul. Look at how the Bible describes itself:

- 1. Milk, I Peter 2:2**
- 2. Honey, Psalm 119:103**
- 3. Bread, Matthew 4:4**
- 4. Water, Ephesians 5:26**
- 5. Meat/Solid Food, I Corinthians 3:1-2 & Hebrews 5:12-14**

Again, The Bible Sustains You—Look at the words of Job, recorded for us in Job 23:12

Jeremiah, the Old Testament Jewish prophet put it this way in Jeremiah 15:16

The Bible Equips You For Service; The Bible Sustains You; and, The Bible Keeps You Clean To Please God.

Purpose #3 - The Bible Keeps You Clean To Please God.

Psalm 119:9-11 & John 15:3