

Sermon Notes
July 15, 2018
by Jeremy Adams

- I gave a brief introduction last week to the discipleship process and what I call the **12 Essentials** (for the life of the new believer). **The 12 Essentials** are taken from Acts 2:36-47 and they compose (principally) the essence of life in Christ for the new believer and simultaneously serve as the building blocks for the formation of the church. They include, and I repeat:
 - Faith
 - Repentance
 - Baptism
 - Reception of the Holy Spirit
 - Testimony
 - Apostolic Teaching
 - Fellowship/Lord's Supper
 - Prayer
 - Spiritual Gifts
 - Giving
 - Worship
 - Discipleship
- The Acts 2 church is the model church
 - It is the superlative example
 - In terms of its character, scope, and power in the New Testament
 - In terms of its spontaneous expansion
 - It is the normative example in the sense of:
 - The potential scope and power of the Spirit
 - The efficacious and exponential nature of the Spirit
 - The permanence of the Spirit
 - The potential opportunity of the church to approximate the heart condition of the early church that provided good soil for the gospel and Spirit to be sown
 - Not in the sense that every manifestation of the Spirit will be repeated in the exactly same manner
- I use **the 12 Lessons** as my bedrock discipleship tool for the following reasons:
 - It is a simple, reproducible, and biblical tool that builds toward church formation and includes what I believe to be some of the most dynamic principles of discipleship. They are:
 - the centrality of the gospel
 - the power of the Word of God and apostolic teaching
 - the importance of the Holy Spirit in discipleship
 - the proper place of anointed, decisive, accountable preaching that demands a verdict, distills and filters the faithful, and calls them to

- immediate action, obedience, and manifestation
 - the wisdom of placing discipleship and church formation within the context of the household (oikos) and spiritual fellowship (koinonia)
 - The scope of *In Spirit and in Truth, Volume One and Two* (the discipleship manuals that I am writing)
 - The **12 Essentials** compose the first lessons, transitioning to:
 - An overview of the principles that form the strategic vision of a thoughtful gospel worker as well as the church as a whole
 - The one charter: Matthew 16:18
 - The two curbs: Luke 4:18-20; Matthew 28:18-20
 - The four fields: Mark 4:26-29
 - The five strategies: Entry, Gospel, Discipleship, Church Formation, Leadership Multiplication
 - And then we will transition to a direct study of the Word of God, having introduced the tools to the disciple to begin to feed himself on the Word of God. We will study three books of the bible consecutively, chapter by chapter. They have been thoughtfully and intentionally chosen to develop the disciple in what I believe to be the true heart of all Christian discipleship, which is in Spirit and in Truth (this comes from Jesus' statement in John 4 that true worshipers worship in Spirit and in Truth). They are:
 - The Gospel of John (introduction true worship)
 - The Book of Acts (training in the Spirit)
 - The Book of Romans (training in the Truth)
 - And finally, we will conclude the two years of discipleship with a chapter by chapter study of the Pastoral Epistles to begin to prepare the disciple for leadership. They are
 - 1 and 2 Timothy (training in pastoral leadership)
 - Titus (training in pastoral leadership)
 - All the discipleship training will:
 - be practical
 - be progressive
 - build skill in the spiritual disciplines
 - obedience based
- In Spirit and in Truth: An Introduction to True Worship (John 4)
 - Jesus said the hour has come: a time of transition
 - there was a transition from the external to the internal
 - there was a transition from the geographical to the universal
 - there was a transition from the temporary to the permanent
 - there was a transition from the legal to the relational
 - there was a transition from dead orthodoxy to the living Word
 - **In Spirit,**
 - We have an immaterial aspect to our nature...God is Spirit, we cannot see him but we can see him with the eyes of faith

- True worship is of the Spirit
 - First and foremost, it was begun in the spirit, that is he called us, he drew us, he taught our hearts to fear and our fears relieved, it was by his grace through his spirit
 - And in this dispensation, we are kept by the Spirit, encouraged by the Spirit, assisted in our weakness by the Spirit, taught by the Spirit, possess the fruit of the Spirit
- What is the nature of this Spirit?
 - What he is not
 - A divine consciousness or Brahmanic Reality
 - An impersonal power
 - A mere energy
 - A mere intellect
 - God is not an energy to be channeled, he is not a consciousness to be absorbed or realized, or to be imagined
 - What he is
 - A person
 - One who thinks, feels, loves and hates, that is holy, that broods, creates, empowers, encourages, loves, grieves, and can be quenched
 - One with whom we may have fellowship
 - He is the Spirit of Christ that proceeds from him and yet is coeternal and coequal
 - He reveals Jesus and points to Jesus, exalts and lifts the name of Jesus
 - Doesn't exist to magnify his power, or to bring glory to his name alone
 - He is a Spirit of power, love, and sound mind
 - He is a person to be related with, a truth to be received and believed, and He is a Spirit that is the fullness of love, grace and truth, and stands in contradistinction to all other unclean and foul spirits. We are to have fellowship with him, to know him and be known by him.
 - To worship in the Spirit means in the character and the nature of the Spirit, and in the power and purpose of the Spirit, and in the substance of the spirit as an immaterial being
- **In Truth**, is that which is consistent with the Logos and the Word of the Father
 - Which is embodied in a person (Jesus)
 - Exegeted or explained by a man (Jesus)
 - The One who was in the beginning with God
 - And the One who was God
 - It is intelligible, pregnant with meaning and purpose and intentionality
 - It is written and recorded, rooted in history, and progressing toward a

culmination

- It is properly *His* story