

Sermon Notes
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- **Overview of the Freedom Church's Discipleship Plan**

- **Introduction** - Every church if it is going to be healthy needs to have 5 basic plans in place for healthy vision, purpose, and direction. Each plan should begin with the end in mind. Here they are:
 - Entry Strategy (how do we enter the empty field)
 - Gospel Strategy (what do we say when we arrive)
 - Discipleship Strategy (what and how do we train)
 - Church Formation Strategy (how do we form the church)
 - Leadership Multiplication Strategy (how do we train and multiply leaders)
 - Out of all the above, the engine that really drives the church, and ultimately what is primarily commanded, is the commission to make disciples.
 - This is the main business of the church. See also Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus last words before ascending to the Father

So, the question is, what will be the discipleship pattern set forth in this church (especially for the first two years) and how will it be implemented?

- **Assumptions Regarding Discipleship** – There are assumptions made regarding discipleship in terms of its nature, duration, message, and method:
 - A disciple is a teacher and a learner...all of us should be playing the part, both as a teacher and as a learner
 - A disciple ought to be moving into some form of leadership, thoroughly prepared, trained, and equipped to start leading, after two years of discipleship (gives the believer time to be rooted and established, strengthened by grace, and tested)]
 - A disciple's training is progressive moving from milk to meat (1 Corinthians 3:2) Milk in the sense that the disciple is at first largely dependent on others for feeding, but will soon be introduced to the tools and skills that he will need to self-feed. The disciple begins to eat meat when he is mature enough to fully feed and nurture himself on the steady diet of the Word of God
 - It is more than curriculum, it is a lifestyle
 - We also believe that discipleship is best administered and facilitated in true biblical and spiritual fellowship or "koinonia" which largely takes place in the setting of the home gathering
 - Koinonia is the greek word for fellowship in Acts 2 and truly occurs in time spent with others gathered and centered around the Word of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in worship, prayer, the breaking of bread, etc.

- So, moving forward we will want discipleship to be administered and facilitated in the A2 Gatherings, which are more than bible studies and more than cell groups. These are gatherings where all of the functions of Acts 2 church are present and being practiced
 - So based on these assumptions we want to develop discipleship tools that are:
 - Simple
 - Reproducible
 - Biblical
 - Obedience based, not knowledge based
 - Spiritual
 - That build upon the overall strategic interests of the church and that contribute to the heart, purpose, and mission of the church. This leads us to consideration of the tools that we have adopted:
- **Introduction to the 2-Year Curriculum of the Freedom Church:**
 - **Volume 1, In Spirit and in Truth – Rooted and Established**
 - Firstly, this volume contains 12 lessons on the 12 Essentials of new life in Christ as taken from the life of the earliest believers post-Pentecost from Acts 2:36-47. These 12 Essentials are as follows:
 - Faith
 - Repentance
 - Baptism
 - Holy Spirit
 - Testimony
 - Word of God
 - Fellowship/Lord's Supper
 - Prayer
 - Spiritual Gifts
 - Giving
 - Worship
 - Discipleship
 - Secondly, this volume contains training in the scriptural principles that inform the strategic vision, purpose, and direction of not only the believer, but Freedom Church and all of its ministries. This includes the following:
 - The charter of the church in Matthew 16:18
 - The first and last words of Jesus to the world and to his disciples in Luke 4:18-20 and Matthew 28:18-20
 - The parable of how the kingdom of God grows in Mark 4:26-29 and the inherent plans or strategies

- contained therein, i.e., entry strategy, gospel strategy, discipleship strategy, church formation strategy, and leadership multiplication strategy
- And finally, this volume contains a deeper dive for the disciple as he begins to learn how to self-feed the meat of God's Word, as he meditates, studies, and prays through, chapter by chapter, the entire book of the gospel of John
- **Volume 2, In Spirit and in Truth – Strengthened by Grace**
 - This volume works progressively and intentionally through an in-depth study and application of the Word of God, chapter by chapter. Having just completed the gospel of John in the previous volume, where Christ presents true worship as worship that is performed in Spirit and in Truth, the disciple will now work through the following books of the bible:
 - The book of Acts, where the disciple will receive training **in the Spirit**
 - The book of Romans, where the disciple will receive training **in the Truth**
 - All three of the pastoral epistles, where the disciple will receive training in **leadership development and pastoral ministry**, namely, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus