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## **The Call of Discipleship** *(Discipleship Series Part 1 of 4)*

Christian discipleship is a concept exhibited when Jesus Christ elected and hand selected His first followers. **A disciple, by definition, is a convinced adherent of a school or individual. In the case of Jesus, His disciples were those who followed Him while He was on earth, as well as those who continue to follow Him and His teachings today.**

### **The Call of Discipleship - The First Twelve**

Christian discipleship is evidenced, the day after Jesus was baptized (John 1:35-39). According to this passage, the first two men to follow Him heard John the Baptist declare that Jesus was the Lamb of God. Andrew and his friend (most likely John) believed what they heard and followed Jesus. Before long, they were telling others about this amazing Man of God and forsook everything as true disciples!

Andrew recruited his brother Simon (whom Jesus called Peter); the next day Jesus found Philip in Galilee; Philip found Nathaniel and soon a movement was born. Not everyone came easily or willingly at first. However, before long, Jesus had twelve disciples, who later died as martyrs for Christ except for John (and Judas Iscariot who committed suicide).



### **Discipleship and The Transformation Process**

**Christian discipleship is more than being a believer - it's about being a faithful follower! Once we are saved by Christ, then just like Andrew, John and Peter, we must become His disciples and follow Him. Have you given up all to follow Christ?** If so, then you are a modern-day Christian disciple! And there is a serious commitment in the walk of faith before God and men.

The example of the faithfulness of the apostles, who clearly understood their role as messengers of Christ, is for our emulations. Later, when Paul was added to their number (by virtue of his Road to Damascus saving encounter with the risen Christ), he wrote letters to all the churches he helped to set up. These books and letters became the New Testament of God's Word.



## The Heart of Discipleship

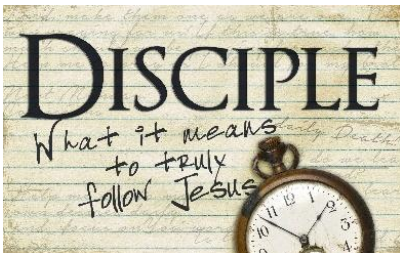
**The heart of discipleship is a total commitment of a child of God to Jesus Christ. That means that one is willing to publicly identify with Him no matter what that cost. That means you are willing to face a hostile world boldly to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and master. Even Timothy was once timid or shy about Christ.** Peter denied Christ but repented. We have those lapses, but a moment of failure does not invalidate the disciple's credentials. All of us have times of failure, but we repented of it. And if we willingly affirm our loyalty to Christ, then He will affirm His love to us as well.

On the other hand, those who consistently deny the Lord by silence, by ungodly living, by words are simply masquerading, they are not God's disciples at all.

So, it all starts with that public confession (i.e. it may mean baptism for some today). If someone denies Christ, says they do not believe, they do not care to obey, they cannot possibly meet this characteristic of a true disciple. This is not something we do in our flesh; this is something God produces in us by giving us the heart of a disciple. He gives us a heart to love Him, a heart to want to proclaim Him, a heart to want to announce that we belong to Him.

**Secondly, following hard on that one, a disciple not only confesses before men his Lord, but prefers Christ over all others.** Verse 34 starts to talk about the family and how the sword comes down between father and mother and sister and brother and enemies become people in your own household, and you cannot love father or mother more than Me and be worthy of Me. You cannot be My disciple if you are not willing to cut those relationships off which are displeasing to God.

And Luke's language is even stronger. Luke in chapter 14 verse 26, *"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."*



You have to deny your natural human relationships that would constrain you and hold you back from Christ just like you have to deny yourself of pleasure and sin (Romans 6); to lay aside the old self (Ephesians 4:22); and treat your flesh with human contempt (1 Corinthians 9:27).

That is what Jesus is talking about. If there is any human relationship that holds you back from naming the name of Christ, from serving submissively under His Lordship, you are not worthy to be His disciple.

Why is Jesus so strong about this? Because He wants to chase away the uncommitted. You understand that about Jesus? He wanted to drive away the false disciples. He did not want the tares. He did not want the false believers. He did not want them because He did not want them to be deceived, and He did not want His church to be affected by them. So, He chased them away by the strength of the call to commitment.

**Finally, the Lord Jesus Christ must be the one for whom we would willingly give our time, treasure, talents and lives.** Verse 38, *"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."*

### Reflections

Christian discipleship begins when you surrender yourself and follow Jesus. By God's grace, it is then accomplished in several ways:

- You can study His Word daily and spend time alone with Him in prayer.
- You can become a member of a Bible-teaching church fellowship.
- You can seek out the companionship of other Christians who are growing with Christ.
- You can participate in ministry and meet the needs of other believers.
- You can share what you're learning about Christ with others, just like Andrew, James, John, Luke, Matthew, Peter, Paul and all the early disciples did.

*Jack Sin*

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***Join us for  
Evangelism  
@ Macpherson  
this afternoon!  
13 Apr 2025.***

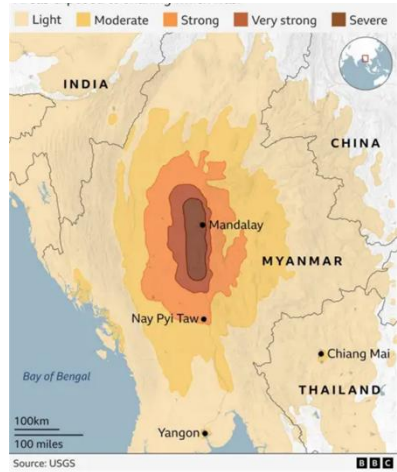


# Christian Relief Efforts for Victims of the Myanmar Quake

Acts 11:29 & 30 *“Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.”*

**Our church has been involved in missions in Myanmar in the training of Pastors and Preachers, support of a Christian Children Home and some local churches all these years.**

**In the wake of the recent earthquake on 28 March 2025 where more than 3300 have died, we are moved of the Lord to support some relief missions to the affected areas of Myanmar in partnership with our trusted Christian brethren there.**



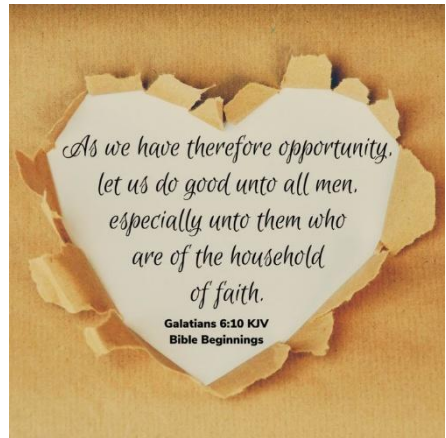
The church has received some funds from our worshippers and supporters and some funds have been sent to support first relief effort in Pastor Thomas of Myanmar Theological Seminary who has travelled to Mandalay with a team to reach out to about 120 affected Christian families with food and basic necessities.





A second relief effort is in partnership with Rev Salai of the Evangelical Presbyterian church for the members of the Falam Baptist Church whose church building was severely damaged by the quake as the entire ground floor collapsed. Thank God for His preserving grace upon His people.

Gal 6:10 says, *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”*



A third relief effort is led by Eld Habakkuk and his team to Naypyidaw the capital to evangelise with gospel tracts and provide food for the families affected. Pray for the revival of the nation and saving of souls even in this disaster.

There is support for another relief mission led by Rev David Khobal, President of Myanmar Theological Seminary to provide food and other necessities for both the affected Christian and non-Christian families with a request as follows:

“Thank you very much for praying for us especially for the earthquake affected families in our country. Yes, there are many things to help the earthquake victims in many different ways. The demands and the needs are huge. Praise God for the Rescue Teams from our neighboring countries to rescue the survivors and help them with their talented ability. There is a short-term aid and a long-term aid to the affected families. We will first do a short-term aid to the affected families.”

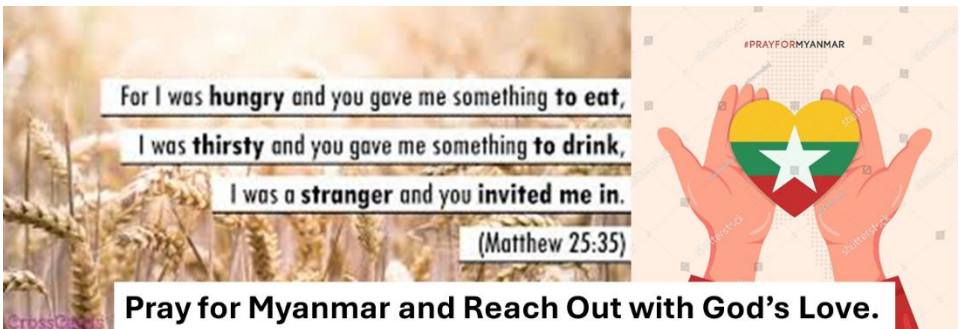


*Matt 25:44,45 “Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”*

Those who are burdened of the Lord to contribute towards this MM Relief or Myanmar missions in general can do via:

- **PayNow** (Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**),
- **Fund Transfer** (Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**)
- **Inform** Dn Paul or Dn Yue Kay.

**We endeavour to provide and minister to our brethren there amid their calamity as the Lord enables us. Let us pray for the safety and effectiveness of the MM Relief mission teams and leaders that it will reach and provide the basic needs, to show Christ’s love and for the awakening of souls as He leads.**



**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible presbyterian church

**Good Friday  
Worship Service  
18 April 2025, 8pm**

**The Darkest  
Day for the  
Son of God**

*(Luke 23:37-56)*  
**Rev Jack Sin**

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road,  
Orion@Paya Lebar, #04-06, S409022)  
Contact: Dn Yue Kay (hp: 97450311)

**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible presbyterian church

**Resurrection Sunday  
Worship Service  
20 April 2025, 10am**

**The Power of the  
Risen Christ**

*(1 Peter 1:1-13)*  
**Rev Jack Sin**

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road,  
Orion@Paya Lebar, #04-06, S409022)  
Contact: Dn Yue Kay (hp: 97450311)

**Come & Join Us!  
Outreach at All Saints Home (Tampines)  
Sat 19 April, 3pm.**



**Registration IS Required. Contact Dn Yue Kay by TODAY.**

## Memory Verse

*Ezra 7:10* For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on ***Approaching God as Students of His Word (Luk 24:15-33)***, the new quarterly series on ***Approaching God with the Right Disposition***".
3. **Good Friday Worship Service** will be held on **Fri 18 Apr 8pm**. Pastor will preach on ***The Darkest Day for the Son of God (Luke 23:37-56)***". The Lord's Supper will be served.
4. On **Resurrection Sunday**, Pastor will preach on ***The Power of the Risen Christ (1Pet 1:1-13)***".
5. Sunday School classes after the worship service are:
  - Walking Through the Old Testament (Pastor)
  - Studies in Job (Dr Kwong Leen)
6. **Evangelism @Macpherson this afternoon** after lunch for door-to-door evangelism and invite the residents to the Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday Worship Services.
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the Psalms. **[Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178]**.
8. Outreach at **All Saints Home (Tampines)** will be held on **Sat 19 Apr at 3pm**. Registration is compulsory. **Submit your details to Dn Yue Kay by TODAY**.
9. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. **[Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551]**.
10. Pray for:
  - **2025 Annual Church Camp**, Jun 10-13 at Forest City Marina Hotel, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "*Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era*" by Rev Tan Eng Boo.
  - **Travels: Poh Huat** (9-16/4 Vietnam), **John W** (10-21/4 China), **Albert & Janet** (14-19/4 Indonesia), **Pastor & Angie** (23/4-5/6 Sabbatical)
  - **Medical: Mrs Philip Heng** [brain aneurysm], **Poh Suan** [fractured right ankle], **John W's sister Angeline** [lung Cancer], **John W's daughter** [dialysis treatment].
  - **Myanmar Earthquake Victims & Relief Ministry Teams.**
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**Kindly indicate **"Church Building Fund"** if you would like to designate towards this cause.