



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- II Peter 1:5-15
- 2 Timothy 2:1-7; 4:1-8
- Galatians 6:6-10
- 1 Cor. 9:7-14; 1 Tim. 5:17-18

THE DISCIPLE FACTORY

- The Diligent Disciple
- Recruit Soldiers
- Train Athletes
- Incentivize Farmers

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

“For **if these things** are yours and abound, they make you to **not be idle or unfruitful** in **the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ. For **he who lacks these** things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins**. Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent** to make **your calling and election sure**. For **if you do these things**, you **will never stumble**. For thus you will be **richly supplied** with the **entrance into the eternal Kingdom** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8-11 WEBUS

“You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also**. You therefore must **endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus**. **No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a**

soldier. Also, if anyone competes in **athletics**, he **isn't crowned unless** he has competed by the **rules**. The **farmer** who labors must be the first to get a **share** of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." 2 Timothy 2:1-7
WEBUS

INTRODUCTION: The Disciple Factory

If you are willing to engage in all that it takes to become a diligent disciple, intense intimacy with Christ will be your reward, regardless of how challenging it is to live that life. You can expect one victory after another, as you overcome every weakness of your past sinful nature. And each day you endeavor to live a life of purity, you will become more like Christ. Then you are called to take the things which you have learned and practiced, as witnessed by others, and commit them to those who desire to be the next generation of faithful disciples, diligent and willing to also pass on what they've learned from you to the next generation. And that generation should pass it to the next, and so on! Imagine it as a multilevel discipleship copy center that duplicates diligent disciples — a sort of discipleship factory.

It's a difficult topic for certain, so let us pray in the immortal words of the Apostle Paul, "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." And if we borrow the same

imagery that Paul used to help us comprehend the various character qualities of diligent disciples, we can even better understand the stages of development and the process. Let us begin by first agreeing that the process will not be easy; difficulties certainly await! Then, to encapsulate his creative ideas, let's unwrap Paul's three object lessons; he taught us to recruit soldiers, train athletes, and incentivize farmers.

Good soldiers are recruited to leave their non-commissioned lives behind, to faithfully shift their thoughts away from the affairs of civilian life, and to instead focus all their attention on impressing their commanding officers with the utmost integrity. Elite athletes marshal all of their resources on training and strategies for improvement; they are determined to advance and compete with excellence and to consistently win at the highest level possible. Productive farmers study and work the soil tirelessly to increase its fertility and to make it most hospitable to the seed they plant. They are innovative, patient, and appreciate that everything has a proper timing and season. They sow seeds with utter anticipation of reaping an abundant harvest, a harvest in which they fully expect to participate. And they expect such, season after season, because sustainability too is a consistent practice of the productive farmer.

The imagery in Paul's object lessons is brilliant: to make disciples we must recruit soldiers, train athletes, and incentivize

farmers. Each has its own great attributes, but they also share many common strengths that ought to receive mention for their use on our discipleship factory assembly line: a willingness to follow leaders and lead followers; recognition of the value of mentorship and teamwork; a strong work ethic which translates into doing hard things and the ability to work effectively under pressure. All three require mental fortitude, grit, resilience, and adaptability. Each must demonstrate commitment, dedication and discipline. As things oftentimes don't go as expected, perseverance is required to overcome challenges and to remain composed under pressure. All must possess a deep desire to be experts at their craft and a willingness to be perpetual students. And to round off these impeccable characteristics is the need for a strong proper-functioning physical body.

Peter acknowledged Paul's greater wisdom in how he elaborated on what Peter himself taught, albeit Paul on a much deeper level and with more difficulty to understand. And Paul was sensitive to the depth of his own teachings, hence again his prayer, "Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." Understand what it means to recruit, train, and incentivize Christians, if your hope is to commit these things to faithful disciples who will also be able to teach the next generation.

THE DILIGENT DISCIPLE

1. Making the Next Generation of Disciples

A. The Discipleship Factory

(1) Disciples must have intimacy with God...

(a) Effective and Fruitful

1. “For **if these things** are yours and abound, they make you to **not be idle or unfruitful** in **the knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8 WEBUS

a) You will be not be idle [barren or ineffective] in knowledge of [deep intimacy with] the Lord.

1) “*that their hearts may be comforted, they being **knit together in love**, and gaining all riches of the **full assurance of understanding**, that **they may know the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** are hidden.*”

Colossians 2:2-3 WEBUS

b) You will be not be unfruitful [unproductive] in knowledge of [deep intimacy] the Lord.

1) “*But we received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, **that we might know the things that were freely given to us by God.***” 1 Corinthians 2:12 WEBUS

- c) Disciples are **effective and productive** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 1) Disciples do these things to bear fruit!
 - a. Escape the corruption of various lusts... (2 Pt. 1:4) See: [To Partner with God](#)
 - b. P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. adding to their Faith: Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love. (2 Pt. 1:5-7) See: [Just Add Practice](#)
 - c. Are diligent as stewards of their calling and election. (2 Pt. 1:10)
 - 2) The fruit is an intimate knowledge of Y'shua—Partaking in His Divine Nature!
 - a. We become like Him and think like Him!
 - b. See: [Appreciating Knowledge](#) & [To Partner with God](#)

(b) What would cause one to lack these things?

- 1. “For **he who lacks these** things is blind, seeing only what is near, **having forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.**” 2 Peter 1:9 WEBUS

- a) Just one reason: See: [The 1 Thing](#)
 - 1) One who is looking only at what is right in front of himself cannot see with prophetic eyes.

- 2) It's not his physical sight that is distorted, but the absence of his prophetic vision that has blinded him, his inability to grasp the magnitude of what God has promised.
 - 3) There is ONE THING that will ruin your progress and may even prevent you from starting.
 - 4) It may be the most important thing you will EVER LEARN as a Christian regarding the discipleship process.
 - 5) If you forget you were ALREADY cleansed from your past sins, you will not pursue...
 - a. The escape from corruption of various lusts...
 - b. The P.R.A.C.T.I.C.E. of adding to your Faith...
 - c. The diligence of good steward of your calling and election.
 - 6) If that happens, your participation in the fullness of God's promises (**Intimate Knowledge of God and Partaking in the Divine Nature**) evaporates!
- (c) Therefore... be diligent!
1. "Therefore, brothers, **be more diligent** to make **your calling and election sure**. For **if you do these things**, you **will never stumble**." 2 Peter 1:10 WEBUS

- a) Be a good steward of your calling and election...
- b) Live today like you know what you've been promised!
- c) Your eternal redemption does not depend on it, but your life today does!
- d) *"To this end we also pray always for you that our God may count you **worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire of goodness and work of faith with power,**"* 2 Thessalonians 1:11 WEBUS
- e) Never Stumble...
 - 1) What a wonderful safety net we have.
 - 2) You will never come to a halt if you continue to pursue God.
 - 3) No matter what it looks like at any given time, God's promises are always yes and amen!
 - a. *"What then shall we say about these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?"***
Romans 8:31 WEBUS
- (d) Called to Christlikeness!
 - 1. "For thus you will be **richly supplied** with the **entrance into the eternal Kingdom** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:11 WEBUS

a) The Kingdom: the image and stature of Christ; His Divine Nature! (See: [To Partner with God](#))

1) *“He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**”* Ephesians 4:11-13 WEBUS

(2) Other Disciple Requirements:

(a) You are My disciple if you remain in His Word!

1. “Jesus therefore said to those Jews who had believed him, **“If you remain in my word, then you are truly my disciples.”** John 8:31 WEBUS

(b) You are My disciple if you surrender everything!

1. *““If anyone comes to me, and doesn’t disregard his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, yes, **and his own life** also, **he can’t be my disciple. Whoever doesn’t bear his own cross and come after me, can’t be my disciple.** {33} So therefore, **whoever of you who doesn’t renounce all***

that he has, he can't be my disciple." Luke 14:26-27,
33 WEBUS

(3) If you are His disciple, you will make other disciples!

(a) Duplicating Diligent Disciples

1. "You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, **commit [entrust] the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**" 2 Timothy 2:1-2 WEBUS
2. Imagine a Multilevel Discipleship Copy Center that duplicates diligent disciples—a discipleship factory.
 - a) Engage in all that it takes to become a diligent disciple and intense intimacy with Christ will be your reward, regardless of how challenging it is to live that life.
 - b) Expect one victory after another, as you overcome every weakness of your past sinful nature.
 - c) Each day you endeavor to live a life of purity, you will become more like Christ.
 - d) Take what you have learned and practiced, as witnessed by others, and teach them to the next generation of faithful disciples, those diligent and

willing to also pass on what they've learned from you to the next generation.

e) That generation passes it to the next, and so on!

3. Calling all Christians to become disciples!

a) There is a requirement for every disciple; all you have learned, all you have become, and all that you will ever become, you must pass on to others in such a way that they can do the same.

b) **A true disciple is a disciple who can make disciples who makes disciples!**

(4) The All-in Disciple (Paul)

(a) If I am going to be *poured out as a drink offering*...

1. "Yes, and **if I am poured out on the sacrifice [as a *drink offering*]** and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. In the same way, you also should be glad and rejoice with me." Philippians 2:17-18 WEBUS

(b) I am being *poured out as a drink offering*...

1. "**For I am already being offered [as a drink offering], and the time of my departure has come.** I have fought the good fight. **I have finished the course.** I have kept the faith. From now on, the crown of righteousness is stored up for me, which the Lord, the

righteous judge, will give to me on that day; and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved his appearing." 2 Timothy 4:6-8 WEBUS

- a) The drink offering is wine that would be thrown on the inferno of the sacrificial fires.
- b) Can you imagine what happens?
- c) The liquid is vaporized into steam instantly.
- d) That is what Paul considers his life for the Lord—a complete and total sacrifice.
- e) He says, *"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course."*

(c) Like Paul, Peter is about to be poured out...

1. "Therefore **I will not be negligent to remind you of these things**, though you know them and are established in the present truth. I think it right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, {14} **knowing that the putting off of my tent comes swiftly, even as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me**. Yes, I will make every effort that you may always **be able to remember these things even after my departure.**" 2 Peter 1:12-15 WEBUS

- a) The time of Peter's departure has also come, like Paul's from 2 Timothy 4:6.

- b) Interesting way, 2 Timothy and 2 Peter are these disciples' final letters before they are put to death under Nero at the same time in history.
- c) We must follow in their footsteps! ***"The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*** 2 Timothy 2:2 WEBUS

(5) **Introducing:** Soldiers, Athletes, and Farmers

- (a) Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.

1. "You therefore must **endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus**. **No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier**. Also, if anyone competes in **athletics**, he **isn't crowned unless** he has competed by the **rules**. The **farmer** who labors must be the first to get a **share** of the crops. Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things." 2 Timothy 2:3-7 WEBUS

- a) The **Soldier:** a warrior; to wage war, to serve as a soldier, to engage in spiritual warfare.

1) *“For though we walk in the flesh, we don’t wage war according to the flesh; **for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God** to the throwing down of strongholds, throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being in readiness to avenge all disobedience when your obedience is made full.” 2*

Corinthians 10:3-6 WEBUS

2) *“For **our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world’s rulers of the darkness** of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore **put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace,*

*above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints. **Pray for me, that utterance may be given to me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the Good News, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.***" Ephesians 6:12-20

WEBUS

b) The **Athlete**: a contender, to engage or compete in an (athletic) contest or competitive game. Hebrew equivalent to strive or contend; to fight or battle, which conveys a sense of struggle and effort. **Note:** must compete by the rules—lawfully, legitimately.

1) *"Don't you know that **those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, so that you may win.** Every man who strives in the games **exercises self-control** in all*

things. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but **we an incorruptible. I therefore run like that, not aimlessly.** I fight like that, not beating the air, but **I beat my body and bring it into submission**, lest by any means, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 WEBUS

c) The **Farmer:** worker of the soil, farm-laborer, vine-dresser, used metaphorically to illustrate principles of **spiritual growth and stewardship.**

1) “On that day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the seaside. Great multitudes gathered to him, so that he entered into a boat and sat; and all the multitude stood on the beach. He spoke to them many things in parables, saying, **“Behold, a farmer went out to sow.** As he sowed, **some seeds fell by the roadside**, and the birds came and devoured them. **Others fell on rocky ground**, where they didn’t have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of earth. When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no root, they withered away. **Others fell among**

thorns. *The thorns grew up and choked them.*

Others fell on good soil and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. *He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” The disciples came, and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He answered them, “**To you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is not given to them.** For whoever has, to him will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever doesn’t have, from him will be taken away even that which he has. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they don’t see, and hearing, they don’t hear, neither do they understand. In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says, ‘By hearing you will hear, and will in no way understand; Seeing you will see, and will in no way perceive; for this people’s heart has grown callous, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes; or else perhaps they might perceive with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and would turn again, and I would heal*

them.’ **“But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear.** For most certainly I tell you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see the things which you see, and didn’t see them; and to hear the things which you hear, and didn’t hear them. **“Hear, then, the parable of the farmer.** When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and doesn’t understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown by the roadside. **What was sown** on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately with joy receives it; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **What was sown** among the thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **What was sown** on the good ground, this is he who hears the word and understands it, who most certainly bears fruit and produces, some one hundred times as

*much, some sixty, and some thirty.”” Matthew
13:1-23 WEBUS*

(b) Common strengths of **Soldiers, Athletes, and Farmers**
for use on our discipleship factory assembly line:

1. **Leadership:** a willingness to follow leaders and lead followers.
2. **Collaborative:** a recognition of the value of mentorship and teamwork.
3. **Strong Work Ethic:** a willingness to do hard things and the ability to work effectively under pressure.
4. **Mental Fortitude:** grit, resilience, and adaptability.
5. **Commitment:** dedication and discipline.
6. **Perseverant:** a determination to overcome challenges and to remain composed under pressure.
7. **Excellence:** a deep desire to be experts at their craft and a willingness to be perpetual students.
8. **Health:** A strong proper-functioning physical body.

RECRUIT SOLDIERS

2. Recruiting

A. Recruiters and Soldiers

- (1) [2 Peter 3:15] “...even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, **wrote to you,**”

[2 Timothy 2:2] “The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

(a) Good Soldiers

1. “You therefore must **endure hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus**. **No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier**.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4

WEBUS

- a) Good soldiers are recruited to leave their non-commissioned lives behind, to faithfully shift their thoughts away from the affairs of civilian life, and to instead focus all their attention on impressing their commanding officers with the utmost integrity.

(b) Y’shua is your Recruiting Officer

1. “God is faithful, **through whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ** our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9 WEBUS
2. “But may the God of all grace, **who called you to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus**, after you have suffered a little while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.” 1 Peter 5:10 WEBUS

3. “For he who was called in the Lord being a bondservant is the Lord’s free man. Likewise he who was called being free **is Christ’s bondservant. You were bought with a price. Don’t become bondservants of men.**” 1 Corinthians 7:22-23

WEBUS

4. “among whom you are also **called to belong to Jesus Christ;**” Romans 1:6 WEBUS

- a) Your recruiter drafted you.
- b) He called you to fellowship with Him.
- c) He bought you with a price.
- d) You belong to Him; your allegiance is not to men!

(c) The character traits of a good soldier:

- 1. **Integrity:** an undivided allegiance.
- 2. **Loyal:** firm and constant support.
- 3. **Honest:** sincere, free of deceit
- 4. **Courageous:** not deterred by fear, danger, or pain.
- 5. **Submissive:** a deep respect for the chain of command.
- 6. **Selfless:** a commitment to prioritizing others.
- 7. **Discerning:** the ability to think critically.
- 8. **Perceptive:** keen situational awareness and insight.

(2) A Good Soldier...

(a) No longer feels he belongs to himself!

1. "Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.** Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

WEBUS

- a) You were bought the greatest price imaginable, the shed blood of Christ!

(b) No longer live for himself!

1. "I have been crucified with Christ, **and it is no longer I who live,** but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me." Galatians 2:20 WEBUS

- a) Your new life is only through Christ in you!

(c) Does not serve two masters...

1. "**No servant can serve two masters,** for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one and despise the other. You aren't able to serve God and Mammon.'" Luke 16:13 WEBUS

- a) He will always obey his commanding officer!

- 1) A soldier is enlisted into the military and in that moment his entire allegiance is sealed.
 - 2) His mission is simple; uphold and protect all that is valuable to his governing authority.
 - 3) As a soldier in the army of God, your allegiance is now to the Government of God, the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - 4) You must lose your allegiance to any other master, influence, or authority!
- (d) Does not become entangled with the affairs of life...
1. "Therefore let's also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let's run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2
- WEBUS
- a) You must not become enticed by sin!
- (e) Leaves behind his past life of debauchery and the squandering of his resources...

1. “For **we have spent enough of our past time doing the desire of the Gentiles**, and having walked in lewdness, lusts, drunken binges, orgies, carousings, and abominable idolatries.” 1 Peter 4:3 WEBUS
 - a) Your old life has already stolen enough time from you!
- (f) Knows he can’t ever return to his old life...
 1. “For if, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in it and overcome**, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For **it would be better for them not to have known** the way of righteousness, than after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb, “**The dog turns to his own vomit again,**” and “the sow that has washed to wallowing in the mire.”” 2 Peter 2:20-22 WEBUS
 - a) If you engage in your past sins to the point of being trapped again in them, it can mean only one thing.
 - b) You were never a true soldier in God’s army.
 - c) The end result of that reality will be devastating.
 - d) You are better off having never known the truth!

(g) Has only One commander to please!

1. “And **whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord** and not for men, **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward** of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 WEBUS

a) Do everything with this one thing in mind—
Y’shua!

- 1) It is so easy to get distracted by the things around you, the necessary affairs of life.
- 2) Even the good things are not so good when they draw your attention away from the true source of all things.
- 3) It is contrary to human nature to surrender your cares of the world, and more so to surrender your desire to sin, to go back to that well of death, the vomit of your past.
- 4) But this is the unalterable assignment for every believer!
- 5) And your payment for your service and retirement benefits are exponential!

TRAIN ATHLETES

3. Training

A. Athletes and Training Programs

- (1) [2 Peter 3:15] "...even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, **wrote to you,**" [2 Timothy 2:2] "**The things which you have heard** from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**"

(a) Elite Athletes

1. "Also, if anyone competes in **athletics**, he **isn't crowned unless** he has competed by the **rules.**" 2 Timothy 2:5 WEBUS

- a) Elite athletes marshal all of their resources on training and strategies for improvement.
- b) They are determined to advance and compete with excellence and to consistently win at the highest level possible.

(b) The characteristics of an elite athlete:

1. **Determined:** intent, resolute, and resolved.
2. **Motivated:** driven, inspired, and stimulated.
3. **Consistent:** steady, constant, and unwavering.
4. **Focused:** intense concentration, a fixed vision, a clear goal, and not easily distracted.
5. **Competitive:** ambitious, zealous, and insistent.

6. **Confident:** optimistic, self-assured, positive, and assertive.

(2) Rules of Engagement: The Elite Athlete...

(a) Has the correct training program!

1. “For **bodily exercise** has some value, **but godliness has value in all things**, having the promise of the life which is now and of that which is to come.” 1

Timothy 4:8 WEBUS

a) Exercise in godliness: godliness describes the holistic gospel.

b) A true disciple practices pleasing God and submitting to His will in every area their of lives: body, soul, and spirit.

(b) Knows the true value of winning!

1. “Don’t you know that **those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run like that, so that you may win.** Every man who **strives in the games exercises self-control in all things.** Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore run like that, not aimlessly. I fight like that, not beating the air, but **I beat my body and bring it into submission,** lest by any means, after

I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 WEBUS

- a) He runs knowing he will win.
- b) He exercises self-control in all things (hence godliness).
- c) He recognizes that the prizes the world offers are temporary, so he strives for what is permanent, only that which pleases the Lord.
- d) He does not waste time training for or striving after things with no eternal value.
- e) Instead he lives a disciplined life in spirit, soul, and body, so when others look upon his successes, what he has accomplished is a true testimony for God.
- f) Please Remember:
 - 1) Disciples only win if they follow God's rules.
 - 2) Disciples are governed by the laws of heaven and any tactics to win outside of those parameters will never yield true victory.
 - 3) It is as simple as this; in all things and at all times the first question is this; *"What does God think about this?"* When you have His answer, that is how to proceed.

(c) Believes they have already won!

1. “No, in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.” Romans 8:37 WEBUS

a) Disciples only and always have their victories in Christ.

INCENTIVIZE FARMERS

4. Incentives

A. Farmers and Fruitful Harvests

(1) [2 Peter 3:15] “...even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, **wrote to you,**” [2 Timothy 2:2] “**The things which you have heard** from me among many witnesses, **commit the same things to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**”

(a) Productive Farmers

1. “The **farmer** who labors must be the first to get a **share** of the crops.” 2 Timothy 2:6 WEBUS

a) Productive farmers study and work the soil tirelessly to increase its fertility and to make it most hospitable to the seed they plant.

b) They are innovative, patient, and appreciate that everything has a proper timing and season.

- c) They sow seeds with utter anticipation of reaping an abundant harvest, a harvest in which they fully expect to participate.
- d) They expect such, season after season, because sustainability is a consistent their practice.

(b) The character traits of a productive farmer:

1. **Patient:** tolerant, accepting, resigned, and composed.
2. **Innovative:** unconventional, unprecedented, pioneering, and disruptive.
3. **Lasting Legacy:** the care for sustainability and reproducibility.
4. **Timeliness:** does things at the proper time or season.
5. **Entrepreneurial:** engaging in enterprise for profit.
6. **Bold:** not risk averse
7. **Principled:** operates in an ethical and humane manner.
8. **Diverse:** is both a scientist and an artist
9. **Nurturing:** attributes to, attends to, and encourages growth
10. **Aware:** conscientious and well informed.

(2) The Productive Farmer...

- (a) Understands seedtime and harvest.

1. **“While the earth remains, seed time and harvest,**
and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day
and night will not cease.”” Genesis 8:22 WEBUS
 - a) A hardworking farmer is the first to partake of the
fruit of his labor!
- (b) Knows the seed he is sowing.
 1. **“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure,**
pressed down, shaken together, and running over,
will be given to you. For with **the same measure you
measure it will be measured back to you.”** Luke 6:38
WEBUS
 - a) You grow whatever it is that you plant!
 2. “According to what I have seen, those who plow
iniquity and **sow trouble**, reap the same.” Job 4:8
WEBUS
 - a) Trouble?
 3. “Wicked people earn deceitful wages, but one who
sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.” Proverbs
11:18 WEBUS
 - a) Righteousness?
- (c) Provides for God’s teachers.
 1. **“But let him who is taught in the word share all
good things with him who teaches.** Don’t be

deceived. God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. But he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **Let's not be weary in doing good,** for we will reap in due season if we don't give up. So then, as we have opportunity, **let's do what is good toward all men, and especially toward those who are of the household of the faith.**" Galatians 6:6-10 WEBUS

- a) The first obligation of a disciple in regards to giving is to provide for God's people, especially those in ministry!
- (d) Knows, like any laborer, that he will share in the fruit.
 - 1. **"What soldier ever serves at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard, and doesn't eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock, and doesn't drink from the flock's milk?** Do I speak these things according to the ways of men? Or doesn't the law also say the same thing? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it for the oxen that God cares, or does he say it assuredly for our sake? Yes, **it was written for our sake, because he who plows ought to plow in hope, and he who**

threshes in hope should partake of his hope. If we sowed to you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we reap your fleshly things? If others partake of this right over you, don't we yet more? Nevertheless we didn't use this right, but we bear all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the Good News of Christ. Don't you know that those who serve around sacred things eat from the things of the temple, and those who wait on the altar have their portion with the altar? **Even so the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News.**" 1 Corinthians 9:7-14 WEBUS

- a) A disciple understands that the Lord provided that those who work in ministry have permission to earn their living in ministry.
- (e) Knows that leaders are worthy of double honor!
 - 1. **"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching.** For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox when it treads out the grain." And, "The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" 1 Timothy 5:17-18 WEBUS

- a) Again, those who work in ministry have permission to earn their living in ministry.
- (f) Knows that nothing grows unless it is first sown into the ground and dies.
 - 1. **“Most certainly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life will lose it.** He who hates his life in this world will keep it to eternal life. If anyone serves me, let him follow me. Where I am, there my servant will also be. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” John 12:24-26 WEBUS
 - a) A true disciple knows that he must die to all that he ever was before he was a Christian, if he wishes to grow into the new life that God has ordained for him. *“You foolish one, that which you yourself sow is not made alive unless it dies.”* 1 Cor. 15:36
- (g) Knows to be careful what he sows!
 - 1. “He set another parable before them, saying, **“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who sowed good seed** in his field, but while people slept, **his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds** also among the wheat, and went away. But when the blade sprang up

and produced grain, then the darnel weeds appeared also. The servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did these darnel weeds come from?' "He said to them, '**An enemy has done this.**' "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them up?' "But he said, 'No, lest perhaps while you gather up the darnel weeds, you root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the harvest time I will tell the reapers, "First, gather up the darnel weeds, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"" {37} He answered them, "**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seeds are the children of the Kingdom, and the darnel weeds are the children of the evil one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil.** The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. As therefore **the darnel weeds are gathered up and burned with fire; so will it be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his Kingdom all things that cause stumbling and those who do iniquity, and will cast**

them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom** of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Matthew 13:24-30, 37-43 WEBUS

- a) Good seed: your righteousness will shine like the sun in the Kingdom.
- b) Bad seed: your iniquity will land you in the fire.

The Disciple Factory

Recruit Soldiers. Train Athletes. Incentivize Farmers.

RECRUIT SOLDIERS

A. The character traits of a good soldier:

1. **Integrity:** an undivided allegiance.
2. **Loyal:** firm and constant support.
3. **Honest:** sincere, free of deceit
4. **Courageous:** not deterred by fear, danger, or pain.
5. **Submissive:** deep respect for the chain of command.
6. **Selfless:** a commitment to prioritizing others.
7. **Discerning:** the ability to think critically.
8. **Perceptive:** keen situational awareness and insight.

B. A Good Soldier...

1. No longer feels he belongs to himself!
2. No longer live for himself!

3. Does not serve two masters...
4. Always obey his commanding officer!
5. Does not become entangled with the affairs of life...
6. Leaves behind his past life of debauchery and the squandering of his resources...
7. Knows he can't ever return to his old life...
8. Has only One commander to please!
9. Does everything with this one thing in mind...

TRAIN ATHLETES

A. The characteristics of an elite athlete:

1. **Determined:** intent, resolute, and resolved.
2. **Motivated:** driven, inspired, and stimulated.
3. **Consistent:** steady, constant, and unwavering.
4. **Focused:** intense concentration, fixed vision, clear goals, not easily distracted.
5. **Competitive:** ambitious, zealous, and insistent.
6. **Confident:** optimistic, self-assured, positive, assertive.

B. The Elite Athlete...

1. Has the correct training program!
2. Knows the true value of winning!
3. Does not waste time training for or striving after things with no eternal value.
4. Believes they have already won / only victories in Christ

INCENTIVIZE FARMERS

A. The character traits of a productive farmer:

1. **Patient:** tolerant, accepting, resigned, and composed.
2. **Innovative:** unconventional, unprecedented, pioneering, and disruptive.
3. **Lasting Legacy:** sustainability and reproducibility.
4. **Timeliness:** does things at the proper time or season.
5. **Entrepreneurial:** engaging in enterprise for profit.
6. **Bold:** not risk averse
7. **Principled:** operates ethically and humanely.
8. **Diverse:** is both a scientist and an artist
9. **Nurturing:** attributes/attends to, encourages growth
10. **Aware:** conscientious and well informed.

B. The Productive Farmer...

1. Understands seedtime and harvest.
2. Is the first to partake of the fruit of his labor!
3. Knows the seed he is sowing. You grow what you plant!
4. Provides for God's teachers. (The first obligation!)
5. Knows, like any laborer, that he will share in the fruit.
6. Understands that those who work in ministry have permission to earn from ministry.
7. Knows that leaders are worthy of double honor!

8. Knows that nothing grows unless it is first sown into the ground and dies (old life).
9. Knows to be careful what he sows!

Common strengths of **Soldiers**, **Athletes**, and **Farmers** for use on our discipleship factory assembly line:

1. **Leadership:** a willingness to follow leaders and lead followers.
2. **Collaborative:** a recognition of the value of mentorship and teamwork.
3. **Strong Work Ethic:** a willingness to do hard things and the ability to work effectively under pressure.
4. **Mental Fortitude:** grit, resilience, and adaptability.
5. **Commitment:** dedication and discipline.
6. **Perseverant:** a determination to overcome challenges and to remain composed under pressure.
7. **Excellence:** a deep desire to be experts at their craft and a willingness to be perpetual students.
8. **Health:** A strong proper-functioning physical body. Questions & Discussion

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What things must a disciple do to be effective, productive, and fruitful? (See 2 Peter 1:4-7, 10)

- A. What is the one thing that will ruin your progress as a disciple and may even prevent you from starting? (See 2 Peter 1:9)
- B. What does it mean to never stumble in 2 Peter 1:10? (See also Romans 8:31)
- C. What does it mean to be richly supplied with an entrance into the eternal Kingdom? (See 2 Peter 1:11)
- D. Name other disciple requirements: (See: John 8:31; Luke 14:26-33; 2 Timothy 2:1-2)

2. Imagine a Multilevel Discipleship Copy Center that duplicates diligent disciples—a discipleship factory.

- A. Describe what the process of 2 Timothy 2:2 might look like. (Use the sermon notes on pages 10-11 for help.)
- B. What is the common theme of 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and 2 Peter 1:12-15?

3. What three object lessons does Paul use in 2 Timothy 2:3-7 to teach us about the excellent qualities of a disciple of Christ?

- A. What are some of their common strengths as noted in the sermon notes on page 19?

4. Write three separate essays, one for each of the object lessons Paul uses to describe the specific qualities of a diligent disciple in 2 Timothy 2:3-7.

- A. Be sure to define the character traits of each and to use scripture passages to support your answers.
- B. Refer to the sermon notes beginning on page 19 for help.