



God, The Counselor

“Bring them here to me,’ he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.”

Matt. 14:18-20

With these verses... *“I heard the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit. It was Jesus who provided the bread for the crowds. The disciples’ task was only to distribute what their Master had already given them. It was God who sustained His people. He was not asking me to feed His children from the words of my own heart. He was only asking me to distribute the living bread He had put into my hand.”*

A Distant Grief
Kefa Sempangi

- I. Permit God to be your disciple’s Counselor through His Word and His Spirit.

***“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”***

Is. 9:6b

- A. Encourage him to believe that God is the source of all needed wisdom and power; thus, God’s counsel is vital to his spiritual growth.

“To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.’ ”

Job 12:13

- B. Encourage him to be taught of God. (1 Cor. 2:12,13)

***“And all your sons will be taught of the Lord;
And the well-being of your sons will be great.”***

Is. 54:13 NASB

- C. Help him to receive God’s instruction through the use of the Scriptures.

***“Please receive instruction from His mouth,
And establish His words in your heart.”***

Job 22:22 NASB

“I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

Job 23:12b NASB

- II. Understand that the *major purpose* of God’s carefully designed Word is to **impact** lives, which shows the need for the disciple to interact personally with Bible verses.

- A. The disciple who is “listening to His voice” is motivated to follow Christ.

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:27

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- B. The Scriptures are able to satisfy his spiritual hunger.
“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, ...to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”
Deut. 8:3
- C. The Word of God teaches, rebukes, corrects and trains.
“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Tim. 3:16,17
- D. The Scriptures bring conviction to the disciple’s heart.
“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”
Heb. 4:12
- E. The Word of God gives hope.
“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
Rom. 15:4
- F. The Bible guides and directs. (Ps. 119:133)
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”
Ps. 119:105
- G. The Scriptures comfort and strengthen in sorrow and affliction.
“This is my comfort in my affliction, That Thy word has revived me.”
Ps. 119:50 NASB
- H. They give joy.
“Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.”
Ps. 119:111
- I. The Scriptures provide peace.
“Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.”
Ps. 119:165
- J. The Word of God leads to freedom. (John 8:31b,32)
“I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.”
Ps. 119:45
- K. The Bible sustains the disciple through suffering and weakness.
“Sustain me according to Thy word...”
Ps. 119:116a NASB

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L. The Scriptures are designed to be the disciple's delight and to be his counselor.

"Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."

Ps. 119:24

M. The Bible produces reverential fear of God.

"Establish Thy word to Thy servant, As that which produces reverence for Thee."

Ps. 119:38 NASB

III. Permit the Bible to do the work God has purposed it to do in the disciple's life. (Is. 55:11)

A. Realize the Scriptures are designed by God *to bring change* in the believer. (Heb. 4:12)

1. During the first session,

- a. instruct him to look up all references in parentheses as he proceeds through the *CTO* manual.
- b. instruct him to highlight or to put a mark next to the verses and concepts that impact him or which he has questions to address in the next session.

Note: You may desire to have him get a separate notebook and write out each verse that is referenced. If more than one verse is referenced, tell him to write the verse which most impacted him.

2. During the session,

- a. ask your disciple to read out loud the pertinent scriptures himself, whether in the Bible, the scriptures quoted in the *CTO* manual or the references in parentheses.
 - 1) Tell him, "God is speaking directly to you as you read this passage because the Bible is God's way of communicating to you."
 - 2) Suggest that he personalize the passage by inserting "I" or "me" into the passage when appropriate.
 - 3) Ask after he reads a passage, "What is God saying to you?"
- b. remind him that God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2)

B. Utilize the Bible directly because it takes the focus off you as the major confronter and guide and puts the focus of God in those roles.

C. Use the Bible to validate your guidance and direction.

IV. The Word of God is **designed** by Him to "connect" with His Holy Spirit within the believer to produce spiritual growth. His God-given title is the Counselor and His role is to

A. Teach you all things (John 14:26a)

B. Remind you of everything Jesus has said (John 14:26b)

C. Convict you in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8)

D. Guide you into all truth (John 16:13a)

E. Reveal the thoughts of God that you may understand what He has freely given you (1 Cor. 2:9-12)

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- F. Teach you to express spiritual truths in spiritual words rather than expressing human wisdom (1 Cor. 2:13)
- G. Enable you to understand the things of God which the natural man cannot understand (Deut. 8:3)
- H. Glorify Jesus by taking what belongs to Jesus and making it known to you (John 16:14,15)

“...the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 14:26

*“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.
...He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*

All that belongs to the Father is mine.

That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”

John 16:13-15

**When the Word of God and the Holy Spirit unite to work in the believer,
they are sources of transforming power!**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The necessity of seeing God as your own Counselor, as well as your as your disciple's Counselor is established in this lesson. A number of reasons for the complete reliance upon the Holy Spirit and The Bible to perform the work they were created to do in your disciple.

Key Passages: Is. 9:6; Job 12:13; Is. 54:13; John 10:27; Ps. 19:7-14; 119

SECTION ONE: THE ROLE OF GOD

1. Why are some "Christian" counseling approaches producing so little fruit?
2. What are some of the implications of failing to recognize God's role in the discipling process?
3. What are some indications that you as the discipler, have either lost the focus on God and His role or have attempted to play God's role?
4. What are some things that you can do to maintain the right focus on God and His role in the discipling process?

SECTION TWO: THE ROLE OF THE SCRIPTURES

1. Why is Scripture so seldom used in counseling today?
2. How have both secular and some “Christian” approaches in counseling undermined the sufficiency of Scripture in dealing with problems?
3. What are some possible implications of not directing a disciple to Scripture?
4. Describe how God has designed His Word and the Holy Spirit to work together.
5. What can happen when you, as the discipler, begin to play the Holy Spirit?
6. How do the truths presented in this study give you confidence in dealing with your disciple?
Please be specific in your answer.