



**GOD'S CALL
TO OBEDIENCE**

**PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
TAKING THE NEXT STEPS**

**“All Christians are God’s stewards.
Everything we have is on loan
from God, entrusted to us in this
present life to use in serving Him
and building His Kingdom.”
Randy Murphy**

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

(Please read this together with your discipler)

LIVING LIKE JESUS AS AN IMAGE-BEARER

We are rejoicing with you for the grace God has given you to complete this part of the CTO discipleship process! You have most likely sacrificed many months of time and grace-driven effort to grow in your relationship with God. CTO is not a curriculum, but it is teaching you a new way of living with God in His Kingdom and for His eternal purposes. In other words, your new lifestyle has just begun! Our desire is that you will continue to walk faithfully with God, empowered by the Spirit of Christ living in you. You also may have thought all this hard work was just for your own growth. The individual transformation you have experienced is far bigger than that – it has eternal purpose and spiritual significance to put God on display as an *image bearer* of Jesus Christ. This discipling experience has been preparing you to bring along other followers by sharing what God has taught you through His Word and His resources. We are called to “make disciples who make disciples.” (Matt. 28:19,20) God has equipped you to fulfill His Great Commission!

LIVING A LIFESTYLE OF LOVE-MOTIVATED OBEDIENCE

Throughout these many months, God has stretched and grown you. You most likely have taken hard steps of obedience in which God has revealed Himself to be faithful to you. We trust by God’s grace you have sought forgiveness and seen key relationships reconciled. (Rom. 12:18) You have been introduced to a number of concepts and tools over the last few months that now all come together. For example, when you are facing difficulty and need to renew your mind, you have an opportunity to *catch* and *confess* – not just actions, but *attitudes* and *heart motivations* behind the behaviors. It is important to continue to identify the “why behind the what.” What are the heart issues that God wants to expose and change? What does pride and unbelief look like in your heart in this difficult circumstance or difficult person? We pray that new patterns of thinking and a new lifestyle of *love-motivated obedience* have become a regular part of your life and experience with God.



RENEWING YOUR MIND OUTLINE



CATCH your thought or attitude as sinful. (2 Cor. 10:5)



CONFESS your sinful thought or attitude to God. (1 John 1:9)



CLAIM the Holy Spirit’s power to overcome the sinful thought or attitude. (Phil. 4:13)



FORCE your mind to change from the sinful thoughts or attitudes to godly ones. (Phil. 4:8-9)



REPEAT this outline when sinful thoughts or attitudes occur again. (Gal. 6:9)

In addition to catching and confessing your sinful behaviors, attitudes and heart motivations, you have been given a number of other tools that should now be incorporated into the process of renewing your mind:



Reconciling with God and others

Who has sinned against, hurt, or offended you?

Who do you need to seek forgiveness from?



Confessing your attempts to control

Where are you not trusting God with your past, present or future?

What are you trying to fix or change?



Releasing any fears to God

What are you fearing right now?

What do you want to happen that isn't? What don't you want to happen that is?



Confessing and repenting of the idols that are ruling your heart

Who/what are you turning to for "life", satisfaction or happiness?

What circumstances, relationships, desires consume your thoughts over God?



Relinquishing any perceived rights/expectations you may be demanding

What perceived rights or perceived needs are you demanding to be met?

What do you believe you deserve from God or others?



Acknowledging your unbelief in God at this moment

Where are you doubting that God is glorious, great, gracious or good?

In what specific areas are you not trusting in God's sovereignty?



Giving thanks to God in all circumstances

What circumstances are difficult?

Which relationships are extremely challenging?

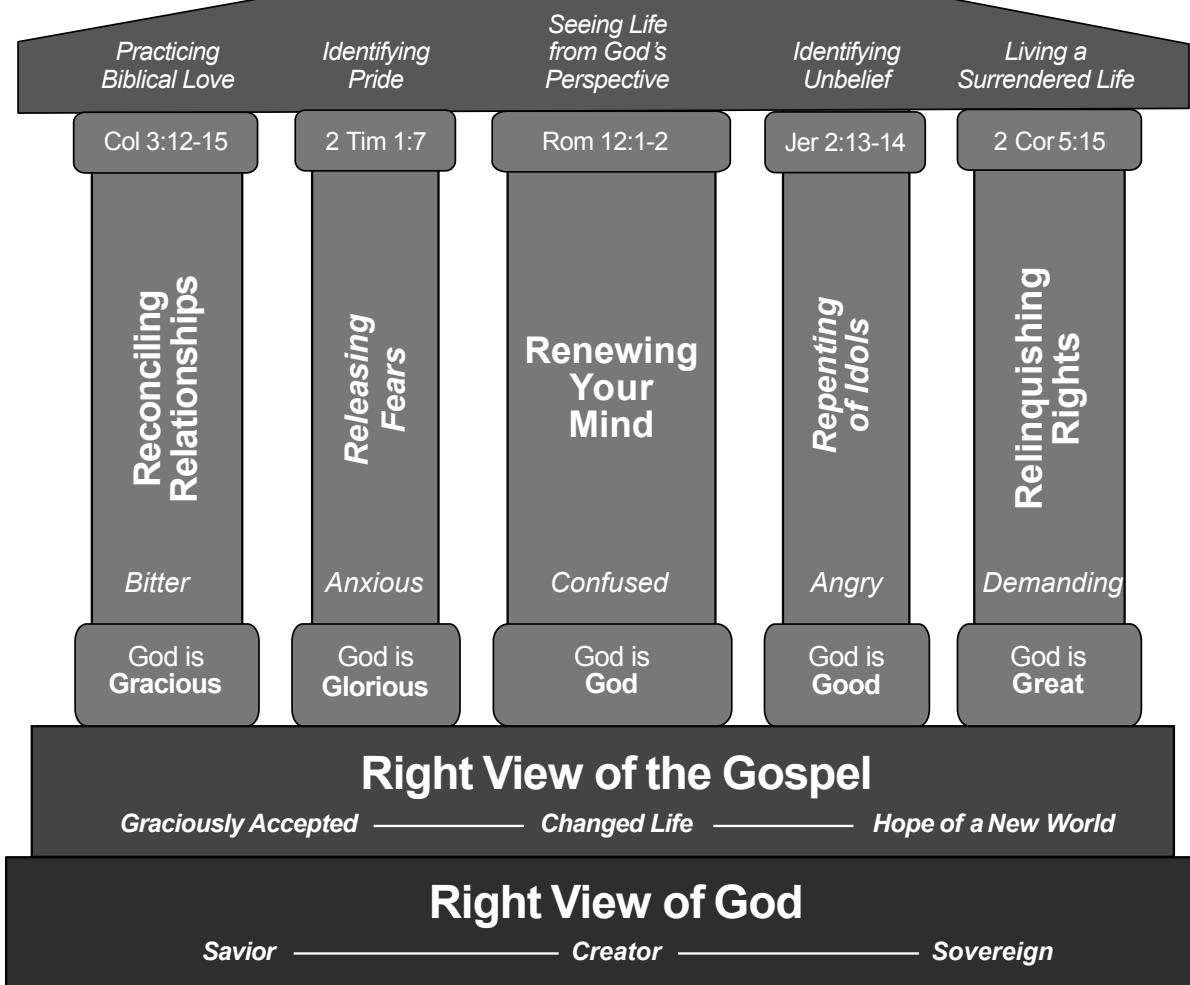
Each of these actions are part of your new life of following Jesus that begins to characterize your life. As Tim Keller says, "The Gospel puts an end to earning, not effort."¹ So strive to put into practice what you have learned so that a new lifestyle of following Jesus begins to characterize your life! As you persevere in renewing your mind and engaging the above action steps, God's Spirit does His work, aligning your will with God's will. Our deepest desire is that you have a right view of God and a right view of the gospel, and that you are standing firm on this foundation. (See *Pillars of CTO* diagram on the next page.)



THE PILLARS OF CTO



To Reveal **GOD** and His Glory



Growing in these disciplines helps you live out your new purpose as a citizen of a new Kingdom as you live in a fallen world among broken people. What does that new purpose look like?

LIVING WITH A NEW PURPOSE: SERVANTS AND STEWARDS

Paul's description of his purpose in 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 characterizes how others should view leaders in the church. His description serves as an example of how we should view ourselves:

“ Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:1,2 NASB

WE ARE SERVANTS OF CHRIST. When you became a believer, you were placed in a whole new kingdom where Jesus is King. As a citizen of this new Kingdom, your mission is to serve Him and His Kingdom purposes. That is why Paul regularly referred to himself as a servant of Christ or a fellow servant at the beginning of many of his books. He considered both Epaphras and Tychicus as fellow bond servants and faithful servants of the Lord. (Col. 1:7;4:7) Likewise, you also are God's faithful servant. You exist to do His bidding. What a privilege to serve the King of Kings!

WE ARE STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL. Paul also described himself as a "steward of the mysteries of God". Understanding your role as a "steward" helps bring clarity to what you are instructed to do and how you evaluate your effectiveness. Stewards are managers, not owners. A steward is "one who is in charge of, one who is responsible for, one who is a manager of."²

David said, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1). God owns everything! But it doesn't stop there – Paul tells us God even owns you – "You are not your own; you were bought at a price" (1 Cor. 6:19,20).

What does a steward do? He manages something that doesn't even belong to him; it belongs to the owner. He has no stake or claim over it. A steward manages what has been entrusted to him in the way the owner requires and requests of him. God is the ultimate owner of all things and has entrusted much to you to steward. As a citizen of a new Kingdom with a new King, you are first and foremost a servant of Christ and a steward of the gospel.

In evaluating his purpose and his effectiveness, Paul saw that stewards are required to be *trustworthy* or *faithful*. As he lived this out in his own life, he did not allow others' assessments of him or even his assessment of himself to determine how successful he was. He saw that it was the Lord who was to judge him (1 Cor. 4:3-5). His part was to be faithful.

We would like to suggest there are three *gifts from God* which He calls you to steward faithfully: your talents, your time and your treasure.

FAITHFUL WITH YOUR TALENTS: SHARING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

You have a new *talent* – a new set of tools – that God has used in your life and relationships. Maybe He used your experience with CTO to turn your marriage around or reconcile a relationship with a friend or relative. Perhaps God has used what you've learned to sustain you through a very difficult circumstance and renewed your hope in Him. Maybe God has used this process to free you from a life dominating sin. Maybe God deepened your personal relationship with Him. God did not give you this new talent just to improve your own life or relationships. *We too are to be faithfully sharing what we have learned with others.*

We are all called to be disciples who make disciples (Matt. 28:19,20). It is as basic as sharing what you have learned and experienced in your relationship with Jesus with someone who needs what you have learned. In 1 John 1:1-3, John expressed the simplicity of what the early disciples did in making new disciples by sharing with those around them what they had seen and experienced personally with Jesus.

What have you “seen and experienced” God do in your life on this discipleship journey? Take a minute right now to make a list of the transformational moments from your story that God will use to impact others!

You may feel you are not equipped to disciple someone else. That is not true! You have the Spirit of God, the Word of God and your experience with God that together are powerful tools He has given you to help others. ***Ask God who He is leading you to disciple. Remember, being a disciple-maker is a command, not just a calling.***

FAITHFUL WITH YOUR TIME: INVESTING IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF FUTURE DISCIPLE-MAKERS

One of the most common reasons given why a person is not investing in discipling others is that they feel they just don't have the time. *You are called by God to invest your time in building His Kingdom, not your own.* Our attempts to keep up with our fast-paced culture, personal desires or others' expectations often tempt us to make value choices that consume our time and energy which distract from investments that can advance God's Kingdom. You may have to say "no" to some things in order to say "yes" to the things God has called you to as a citizen of His Kingdom. We all have the same 24 hours in a day, and we all make choices as to how we spend that time. Are you being a faithful steward of the time God has given you? I encourage you to make the time to invest in the lives of others. Your investment – empowered by the Holy Spirit – is God's plan for drawing people to Himself, transforming lives, growing His Kingdom and changing the world. Please contact us if you are available to disciple others either in your church, your area or by video conferencing.

FAITHFUL WITH YOUR TREASURE: INVESTING IN THE MULTIPLICATION OF CTO

You have also been entrusted with financial blessings from God. There is a connection between your spiritual life and how you think about and handle money.

"A steward manages assets of the owner's benefit. The steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. It's his job to find out what the owner wants done with his assets, then carry out his will... Whenever we think like owners, it's a red flag. We should be thinking like stewards, investment managers always looking for the best place to invest the Owner's money."³

CTO Ministries is a non-profit faith ministry that *depends completely* on the gifts and donations of the friends of this ministry and those who have been directly impacted by it. Will you consider investing financially in CTO so we can continue to provide discipling tools, resources and training for others as well? Your involvement in CTO is much bigger than you as an individual. You are part of a world-wide movement of disciple-makers joining together to fulfill the Great Commission. Your financial support makes it possible for CTO to continue to invest in individuals and church leaders and the larger Body of Christ to *make disciples who make disciples*. But it goes far beyond that! Your support also makes it possible to take the tools and resources that God used in your life to help others in different countries and in different languages. People in other cultures can in turn, experience God in a deeper way and be better equipped to make disciples in their context and culture.

WILL YOU CONSIDER BECOMING A FINANCIAL PARTNER WITH CTO BY GIVING A SPECIAL GIFT OR BY BECOMING A REGULAR MONTHLY PARTNER WITH US?

**SIMPLY GO TO WWW.CTOMINISTRIES.ORG/GIVE
OR USE THE QR CODE BELOW.**



ctoministries.org/give

SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH US TO HELP US BETTER TRAIN AND EQUIP OTHERS

Please take just a couple of minutes to complete the following simple survey.
Scan the QR code below to fill out a short survey that will give us insight into
how we can better serve you and others through this ministry.
(Note: There is one for the disciple and one for the discipler.)



Survey for Disciple



Survey for Discipler

DISCOVERING THE RESOURCES PROVIDED BY CTO

ONGOING TRAINING AND COACHING

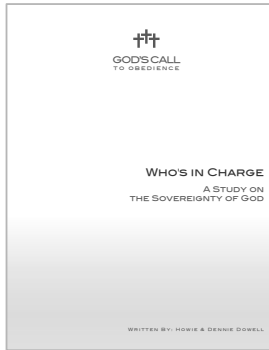
- Workshops and seminars designed to better equip you in living a lifestyle of love-motivated obedience and becoming a more effective disciple-maker.
- The Launching Seminar (either as a group or one-on-one) prepares you to disciple others and points you to the many resources available to you.
- Ongoing coaching is available by your discipler or other CTO disciplers to support you in the process of discipling others.
- Consulting designed to help you develop a greater discipling culture in your church or ministry setting.

THE CTO WEBSITE: www.ctoministries.org

Our website has a wealth of information and resources available to you, including free studies, digital diagrams, training videos, encouraging stories and more! Use the magnifying glass icon in the upper right-hand corner of the title bar to easily search for specific topics or resources.

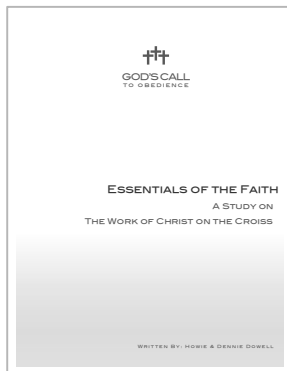
PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER-VI

OTHER CTO MANUALS AND STUDIES: (Bookstore/Curriculum at www.ctoministries.org)



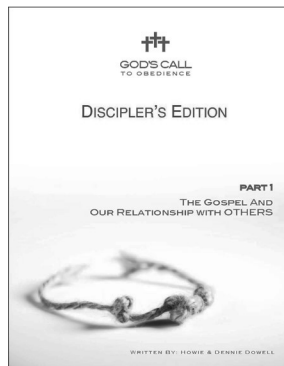
WHO'S IN CHARGE? A Study On The Sovereignty of God

This study includes seven self-directed studies focusing on the sovereignty of God in all aspects of one's life. God's call upon the believer to suffer is explained from a scriptural perspective. This study is included in Part One of *God's Call to Obedience* but is available separately and can be used independently of the CTO process. It also is effective in a small group setting. (This is a free download at www.ctoministries.org.)



ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH The Work of Christ On The Cross

This study includes ten self-directed studies focusing on the foundations of salvation and the work Christ accomplished on the Cross. It is a great study for newer believers and can be used in a small group setting as well. (This is a free download at www.ctoministries.org.)



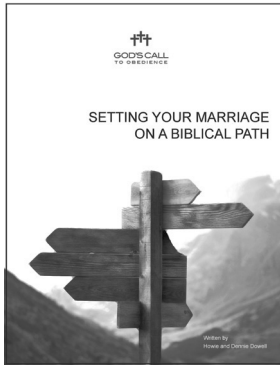
GOD'S CALL TO OBEDIENCE The Discippler's Edition

The purpose of the *Discippler's Edition (DE)* is to provide for CTO disciplers the *Three-Part Discipleship Series (DS3)* in a format that includes easy access to some of the key resources already provided on the CTO website. Since it is packaged for use in three-ring notebooks, it will be easy for you to customize your notebook with the discipling resources you use most frequently. QR codes make it possible to have easy access diagrams, teaching videos and other discipling resources available from CTO.



THE HOME: CALLED TO OBEDIENCE

This study applies the principles learned through *God's Call to Obedience* to the context of the family and the home. Studies are directed to both the single and married believers. Topics include: the single Christian, dating, marriage, sexuality, roles of the husband and wife and parenting.



SETTING YOUR MARRIAGE ON A BIBLICAL PATH

This study is designed as “triage” for a marriage in crisis. It includes condensed excerpts from key studies on forgiveness and reconciliation in *God’s Call to Obedience*. It is designed to be used in the context of a discipling relationship with a seasoned discipler and prepares the couple for more intensive discipling through the main CTO discipleship series.



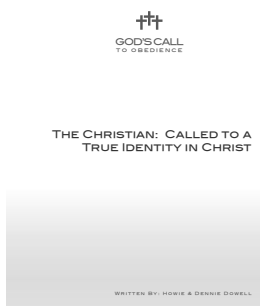
GOD’S CALL TO PURITY

This study sets forth God’s design for sexuality for the married and for the single. It defines sexual sin from a biblical perspective, identifies barriers to a God-glorifying marital relationship and gives direction on redeeming the sexual relationship under God’s design.



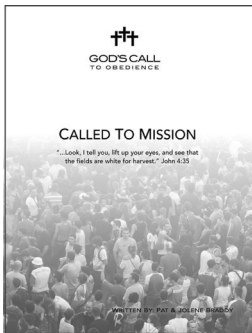
GOD’S CALL TO BROKENNESS

Brokenness is a group of studies related to living a surrendered life dependent on God. It is a humbling and often painful experience, but a broken and contrite heart is needed so that the Holy Spirit can begin to work within us to strengthen and empower us to go forward in faith. This can also be used as a small group study and includes a leader’s guide along with discussion questions. *Previous involvement in CTO is not necessary to utilize this study.*



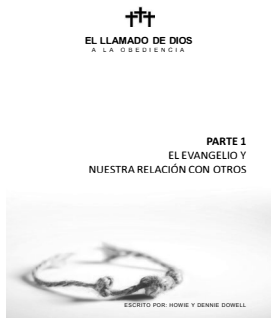
GOD’S CALL TO A TRUE IDENTITY IN CHRIST

This study unpacks what is behind the pride and unbelief that is the root cause of all sin by helping you identify the idols in your life and the false identities that drive you to particular idols. *The Wheel* is introduced as a practical tool to help expose these idols and false identities that are hindering living dependently upon God. *This is a good follow-up to God’s Call to Obedience (DS3) and is intended to be used with a discipler.*



CALLLED TO MISSION by Pat and Jolene Braddy

Once couples and individuals are disciplined to a level of spiritual health and maturity in the fulfillment of His Great Commandment, what can we do to help them take the next step to begin fulfilling His Great Commission? It is out of that question that God led Pat and Jolene Braddy to bring together this resource. This study is designed to be used in a small group setting where there can be encouragement and accountability to stay on mission.



La chiamata di Dio all'ubbidienza

— PRIMA PARTE —
Il vangelo e il nostro rapporto con gli altri



GOD'S CALL TO OBEDIENCE The Spanish and Italian Translations

God's Call to Obedience (DS3) has been translated into both Spanish and Italian. The Spanish version syncs with the English version to enhance bilingual discipling. The Italian version is only available by special order.

ENDNOTES

Putting It All Together: Taking the Next Steps

1. Tim Keller, *Daily Keller*, 2013.
2. Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.
3. Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 476). New York: United Bible Societies