

OUTCOMES OF DISCIPLESHIP

An essential part of our mission at Missio Church is to equip people to live faithful lives of worship. What does this mean? What does it look like to live a faithful life? It is very helpful for us to work from a common answer to these questions. This is why we often refer to our "Five Outcomes of Discipleship" as a description of what it means to follow Jesus.

Below you will find a simple definition for each outcome and on the back a section titled "In Focus," where we expand upon one of the outcomes, offer some questions to consider and a resource to check out. Our hope is that this brief reminder continues to instruct and unify us around who God has made us to be and what He has called us to do.

GOD TRUTH LOVE MISSION

PURSUIT OF GOD

In light of God reconciling us to Himself, there is a detailed knowledge and understanding of God that comes from pursuing Him as our greatest treasure.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The acting presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church that demonstrates the character of God and distinguishes His people from an unbelieving world.

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

Faithfully using everything that God has entrusted us with to reflect His glory.

GRACE STORY

Embracing the fullness of the Gospel and being transformed by it in such a way that we desire to live it out and share it with others.

SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS

Discovering who God has uniquely made us to be and surrendering ourselves to His purposes, serving both the Church and the world with the gifts He has given us.

IN FOCUS: PURSUIT OF GOD

God created us for relationship with Himself. This answers our deepest questions of purpose and identity by rooting who we are in God's authority over us and His love for us. Although we have been unfaithful to God and separated from Him by our sin, He mercifully reconciles us back to Himself. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are restored to God's original purpose of relationship. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God," 1 Peter 3:18

Our relationship with God is our greatest treasure in this life and for all eternity. The Apostle Paul describes how there is nothing which comes anywhere close to the value of knowing Jesus (Philippians 3:8). Our relationship with God is also the foundation for all of our relationships and for the calling that we have received to represent Him everywhere we go. For Jesus said, "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Through the power of the Gospel and the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to love, know, and represent God. As the people of God, our aim is to pursue Him above all else, so that, together, we might live for His glory and walk in loving obedience to His commands.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What has God taught you about himself recently through His Word?
How have you been encouraged and strengthened by the truth of God's revelation?
How have you been challenged to respond in repentance or obedience to what God has revealed?
What has been your greatest struggle with pursuing God lately?
How will you listen to God through His Word in the days/weeks ahead?
How will you meditate on God's Word through memorization?
How will you regularly communicate with God through prayer?

FEATURED RESOURCE: 'A PRAYING LIFE' BY PAUL MILLER BOOK REVIEW BY TREVOR MARSTELLER

In "A Praying Life", author Paul Miller presents a helpful encouragement to pray in a non-academic, biographical manner full of helpful truths. Miller teaches us that prayer matters and it is more than a mere activity we do where we say some words to God. Prayer is relational and it changes both who we are and how we think about God.

As Miller walks through what Jesus teaches about prayer and illustrates these lessons with helpful stories from his colorful life, we learn that our prayers should be child-like, without pretense or "faking-it," when we address God. Our prayers should also not be relegated to quiet times, although such personal prayer to God is the foundation for a life of unceasing prayer. Prayer also teaches us that we are utterly dependent creatures and prayer points us to our desperate need for the gospel of Christ. Miller also tackles a chief opponent to prayer: cynicism. Miller helpfully illustrates and teaches us how cynicism is passive and antithetical to faith and prayer.

I found this book helpful because it addresses a difficult topic - prayer! Praying is perhaps the most difficult and neglected means of grace in the lives of many Christians in this day. But in this book I learn that prayer is more like relating to a gracious host over dinner than bringing a laundry list of requests to one in power. I was reminded that it is ok to pray for "little things" - lost keys, a friend's back pain, etc. Most of all, I was strongly challenged with the fact that how much or how little I pray is a heart issue. I have much searching of my heart to do to root out cynicism and faithlessness. Christ has taught us to bring our requests to God and to ask without shame - how I long to grow in this and thus grow in intimacy with God himself.